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THE TIMES

SERIALS

Pressure grows for Cabinet reshuffle

# Angry Tory MPs savage Bottomley

By Philip Webster, Political Editor

JOHN MAJOR was under mounting pressure to move Virginia Bottomley from her post as Health Secretary last night after she was savaged by Tory MPs over her handling of London hospital closures.

The Prime Minister flew home from Washington to find that the fightback he launched last weekend was already faltering as his backbenchers promised revolt over the threat to St Bartholomew's and Guy's.

In a further blow, the House of Lords ruled that the Home Secretary was acting unlawfully when he introduced a new compensation scheme for the victims of crime without referring it to Parliament.

Mrs Bottomley was felt by some ministers and MPs to have lost the confidence of so many backbenchers that Mr Major would move her to another department in the summer. Many regretted that he did not grant her wish for a change in last year's reshuffle.

After suffering the humiliation of being forced to the Commons to defend her plans yesterday, Mrs Bottomley found herself being lambasted by one Tory MP after another. She was accused of vandalising traditional health services and lacking sensitivity in one of the most unhappy appearances at the despatch box that any Cabinet minister has endured. Labour MPs called on her to resign.

With London's Conservative MPs in an angry mood, the Government's business managers were relieved when the Commons Easter recess began last night. Although there will be time for tempers to cool, several MPs gave notice that they would take any opportunity to vote against plans which include the closure of St Bartholomew's and the run-



Brooke: tabled question on hospital closures

ning down of Guy's. Labour hopes to stage a debate on the issue before the May local elections, while the Government's majority is eroded by the suspension of two MPs involved in the cash-for-questions affair.

The Government will be reluctant to grant Labour debating time, but it will also face calls from its own MPs to allow a vote before the changes go ahead. If it does, there is a real possibility of defeat.

While Mrs Bottomley faced almost unprecedented public criticism from Tory MPs, there were also strong private murmurings against her from ministers up to Cabinet rank. They said she had probably got the substance of her decisions right, but had ruined her case by politically mishandling them, and failing to placate backbench critics.

There was uncoiled fury over her failure to win over such a well-liked grandee as Peter Brooke, the former Northern Ireland Secretary, who tabled the emergency question that resulted in her having to answer to the Commons. On Tuesday, Mr Brooke accused the Health Secretary of lacking moral

courage by announcing her decisions in a written answer, and it was his remarks that spurred the torrent of attacks yesterday.

The Cabinet seems almost certain to discuss the row today and the atmosphere will be uncomfortable. Mrs Bottomley and John Redwood had a sharp exchange late on Tuesday over the Welsh Secretary's thinly-veiled criticism of her approach earlier in the day.

Mrs Bottomley cut an isolated figure in the Commons as she defended her plans to give London a "first class health service, fit for the 21st century". Sir John Gort told her that she was doing "the wrong thing, in the wrong way at the wrong time and in the wrong place", and Hugh Dykes started MPs with a searing personal attack.

He said she had not succeeded "as a senior member of the Cabinet because she has not listened to the hard-faced accountants and bureaucrats in her own department and elsewhere, then reached her own essential human, social, clinical, medical and political judgments on these matters".

Sir Rhodes Boyson said: "Years ago I fought to retain the grammar schools because of their long traditions. We are now, on this side of the House, destroying the same traditions in the hospitals, which to my mind is a form of vandalism." Sir Rhodes and Sir John have both told Mrs Bottomley that they would vote against the Government if she went ahead with plans to close Edgware hospital's accident and emergency department.

Mrs Bottomley won support from some non-London MPs, however, and the tension was relieved when her husband,



Virginia Bottomley off to Westminster to defend "improvements to hospital care"

Peter, offered some sympathetic remarks.

Mrs Bottomley had earlier defended her original decision not to make a statement to the Commons. She told BBC Radio: "Every time you change hospitals in Birmingham or Newcastle or Manchester you do not make an oral statement. This was in a sense confirming the strategic direction which had been set out and debated at great

length and very many times." But Mr Brooke said: "If a hospital has been around for 900 years, for it to receive its death warrant from a written answer does not seem to be to be wholly worthy of the traditions of our party."

The Health Secretary said in the Commons that the changes were "not primarily about finance", but about improving the quality of care. "They are about better special-

ist services... better teaching and research... equipping modern hospitals to respond more flexibly. And they are about providing more health care where Londoners most badly need it in their communities, their doctors' surgeries, the streets where they live."

Bottomley criticised, page 6  
Nicholas Wood, page 14  
Leading article and Letters, page 15

## Condemned man has last brief look at outside world

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN JACKSON

NICHOLAS INGRAM, the British-born murderer sentenced to die in the electric chair in Georgia tonight, caught a brief glimpse of the outside world yesterday when he attended an appeal for a stay of execution before being placed on "death watch".

Yesterday's court hearing was the first time in eight years that he had left the state Diagnostic and Classification Centre outside Jackson, where he has spent 12 years, and because every such appeal so far has been rejected, it will almost certainly be his last.

Looking haggard and pale, Ingram, 31, sat silently through an appeal hearing at Butts County Superior Court, just a few miles from the classification centre.

The condemned man, who was born in Cambridge and moved to America as a child, was taken from his death row cell yesterday to a containment area adjoining the execution chamber. What may be his final hours — he is due to die at 7pm tonight (midnight British time) — will be spent under permanent supervision by prison guards.

His personal possessions have been listed and removed with such items as toiletries, a comb (which he must ask to use), playing cards and an electric razor. The intention is to ensure that he does not attempt suicide before the sentence is carried out.

Ingram is being allowed to watch television through the window of his cell door and, in a departure from the newly imposed anti-smoking policy of Georgia prisons, he is allowed cigarettes but must request matches from his jailers. In the words of the official policy guidelines, his "feeding, showering and all other occurrences" will be monitored by



Ingram at yesterday's Georgia court hearing

officials until he is escorted into the execution chamber. Overruling Ingram's wish to spend what time remains to him with his family, Judge Hal Craig ordered him to appear in nearby Jackson for another appeal hearing.

"How would you rather spend your last hours: talking with your family or sitting in a courtroom?" Clive Stafford Smith, Ingram's British lawyer, asked yesterday, adding that the petition to the superior court would probably be denied before being passed up to the US Supreme Court.

Handcuffed and shackled in a restraining belt to which his hands were manacled, Ingram spent his time in court jiggling uncomfortably and turning to look at 20 or so members of his family who attended the hearing. Wiry and thin, with carefully combed back blond hair, Ingram followed intently as his

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Letters, page 15

## Law lords rule Howard's compensation cuts illegal

By Richard Ford, Home Correspondent

MICHAEL HOWARD, the Home Secretary, will have to introduce emergency legislation to cover compensation payments to victims of crime after suffering a humiliating defeat yesterday in the House of Lords.

The law lords decided by a three-to-two majority that he acted outside his powers in introducing a new tariff-based criminal injuries compensation scheme without reference

to Parliament. They supported a Court of Appeal ruling, saying that Mr Howard's actions were "unlawful and an abuse of prerogative power".

Lord Lloyd of Berwick added: "It is the paramount duty of the courts to say so." Ministers must act within the powers granted by Parliament and for the purposes for which those powers were conferred.

Mr Howard will introduce a Bill in the early summer but the legislation will provoke widespread opposition in and outside Parliament and might prove difficult to push through the Commons and Lords.

Flat-rate payments for victims were introduced in April last year, meaning everybody suffering the same injury received the same amount, regardless of loss of earnings or medical costs. The new tariff-based system is thought to have saved the Government about £85 million compared with the old scheme, based on individual assessments.

Unions argued that this went against the will of Parliament, which earlier approved legislation designed to put a more generous scheme on a statutory footing.

As soon as the Home Office knew the judgment, it stopped criminal injuries compensation awards under the tariff system, with far-reaching consequences.

The Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority will now review 70,000 applications made during the past year and

pay out an estimated additional £85 million for the 12 months to April 1995.

David Maden, junior Home Office Minister, said last night: "We will want to give Parliament an early opportunity to put the tariff scheme on a statutory basis."

He said he was absolutely confident that the measure would get through. "The law lords... merely looked at the way it was implemented." He added that in a debate two months ago, every Conservative member backed the Government.

The judgment is a victory for the Trades Union Congress, which brought the case, and deals a further blow to the reputation of the Home Secretary who has suffered a number of reverses at the hands of the judiciary.

Jack Straw, the Shadow Home Secretary, said Mr Howard "has acted with arrogant disregard both for the welfare of victims of violent crime and of the need to obtain proper Parliamentary approval for ministerial action".

Colin Ettinger, of Robin Thompson and Partners, solicitors for the unions, said: "This is a major victory for violent crime. The Prime Minister confirmed his commitment to supporting victims of crime. He can demonstrate this by supporting the withdrawal of the tariff scheme."

Politics, page 8  
Law Report, page 37

## Airbag rescue for spy plane

Engineers from GEC-Marconi are planning to fit a car-style airbag to Britain's troubled remote control spy plane, Phoenix, in a last-ditch bid to save the £230 million project.

The airbag is intended to protect the plane from damage as it lands on its back suspended from a parachute. Because of recurrent breakages, the spy system is six years behind schedule after a decade of development. Page 23

## Wakeham coal deal inquiry

An official inquiry has been launched into a multi-million-pound contract on coal privatisation advice awarded by Lord Wakeham when he was a government minister to N.M. Rothschild, where he is now a director. Page 2

## Stagg sues police

Colin Stagg, the man acquitted last year of murdering Rachel Nickell on Wimbledon Common, is to sue the police over his arrest and prosecution. Mr Stagg said that he had been granted legal aid. Page 3

## Blair case for EU

Tony Blair, the Labour leader, supported the principle of a single currency at the appropriate time and set out the "patriotic case" for Britain to be at the heart of Europe. Page 8

## Ferry operators face multi-million safety redesign

By Jonathan Prynne, Transport Correspondent

CAR ferries face a fundamental redesign to cut the risk of capsizing when water floods the lower decks, the Government announced yesterday.

Research has revealed that roll-on, roll-off ferries stand a far better chance of staying afloat once water has penetrated the bow-doors if they are equipped with transverse bulkheads. Brian Mawhinney, the Transport Secretary, told MPs. The Government had previously resisted enforcing the use of bulkheads — barriers across the width of the car deck — because insufficient evidence supported claims that they improved safety.

The Government will now press for compulsory introduction of the bulkheads at a meeting of the International Maritime Organisation next month. It hopes the issue will be settled in the summer.

Dr Mawhinney also revealed in a Commons statement that two-thirds of the 100 ferries serving British ports still fail to meet the requirement that they should be capable of staying upright for at least 30 minutes after their car decks are flooded. Of the 89 ships surveyed only 27 met the standard.

The latest research, carried out by the Government's Marine Safety Agency, was commissioned after the Estonia disaster last September in which more than 900 people

died. The agency used advanced computer modelling in the most detailed study carried out on the safety of such car ferries, which carry more than 50 million passengers to and from Britain each year.

If the Government cannot get an international agreement it will press for a Europe-wide regulation and, failing that, transverse bulkheads are likely to be made compulsory just for British ships.

Michael Meacher, the Shadow Transport Secretary, welcomed the announcement but said the Government's commitment to safety was called into question by its "instincts to deregulation and privatisation".

Only one ferry serving British ports has transverse bulkheads and their compulsory introduction will cost operators tens of millions of pounds. A spokesman for P&O European Ferries said opinion remained divided on the benefits of the bulkheads. "Some studies have suggested that if a ship is penetrated from the side they could even impede stability," he said. The bulkheads would slow the loading of cross-Channel ferries, giving an advantage to the Channel Tunnel trains.

The announcement was welcomed by Peter Barney, a British survivor of the Estonia disaster.

Travel News, page 36

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# Tory tempers immune to Bottomley's opium



Sir Rhodes: wounding

Virginia Bottomley has proved Tom Paine wrong. John Keane's new biography of the great 18th-century rationalist quotes his view of Parliament:

"...as a legislature, it has no temper of its own. The Minister, whoever he is, at any time may be touched by an opium wand and it sleeps obedience."

That is often true, but not always. Yesterday Mrs Bottomley's usually reliable opium wand failed.

Hoping quietly to dispatch a hospital or two, she had assumed too quickly that the Commons had no temper of its own. Worse, she had assumed that Peter Brooke (C, City of London & West-

minster S) had no temper at all. Now Mrs Bottomley was dragged to the Chamber to face both, and the House did not sleep obedience. It was Bottomley at bay. After a seeming eternity of back-bench attack, the first real support came from her husband, Peter. She gave him a sad little smile.

Mrs Bottomley's sin had also been an achievement, of sorts: to enrage Peter Brooke. Fair-minded, careful, bumbling Mr Brooke, somewhat of the old school but sharper than he is painted, had objected to her sneaking out the closure of St Bartholomew's hospital in a written answer. On Tuesday he accused her of a lack of "moral courage".

MATTHEW PARRIS  
POLITICAL SKETCH

Such phrases roll easily from the tongue of a Tebbit, but to extract them from a gent like Brooke left MPs gasping.

A lashing from Tebbit merely stings. The wag of a Brooke forefinger wounds. Wounded, Mrs Bottomley had agreed to yesterday's statement.

She took her seat dressed, if not in the robes of a penitent, at least in the muted colours of a chastened woman: a pale Liberty scarf and quiet beige suit. There were cackles of "Resign!" To a notable silence

from London Tory MPs around her she read, rather haltingly, through her statement.

From a modest performer such as Gillian Shephard, a quiet voice or occasional stammer raises no eyebrows. But in a minister who is brazen or nothing, those gulps, hesitations and cast-down eyes marked a parliamentary miracle.

One has felt towards Mrs Bottomley all kinds of emotions: bafflement, admiration, irritation, even disbelief. Yesterday and for the first time

sympathy was added to the list.

Labour howled and railed, but it was the Tory reaction that must have hurt. Sir Rhodes Boyson (Brent N) virtually called her a vandal. John Grist (Hendon N) accused her of doing "the wrong thing, the wrong way, at the wrong time, and in the wrong place". Roger Sims (Chislehurst) charged her with insensitivity and Hugh Dykes (Harrow E) with a wrong judgment.

Those London Tories who did not actually attack asked awkward questions instead. Only Tories from outside London supported her, but mostly on the grounds that their own constituents had been cheated of hospitals by

greedy Londoners. This was not her argument. The troops still loyal sounded more anti-London than they sounded pro-Bottomley.

There were two revealing moments. One was when, as Mr Brooke questioned her judgment, there were scattered cheers from Labour. Brooke visibly flinched. Later, as the Liberal Democrats' Simon Hughes dived piously on, there was a small rally of "Tory" growls in Mrs Bottomley's support. It faltered as Hughes sat down.

If Labour and the Liberal Democrats would go away for a couple of months, the Tory back benches look quite capable of bringing their Government down on their own.

## Doctors warned of assault case risk

Doctors were warned yesterday that treating dying patients against their wishes could lead to a prosecution for assault.

Patients who have prepared a statement in advance, making it clear that they do not want medical treatment to prolong their lives, must have their wishes respected, the British Medical Association said. Such statements, called advance directives or living wills, can be made by those who fear having treatment imposed on them when they are mentally incapacitated and unable to refuse it.

Launching a code of practice on advance directives, Dr Fleur Fisher, head of science and ethics at the BMA, said: "It is important for patients to be able to refuse treatment. If treatment is then inflicted on them that is an assault."

## BBC has Tory bias, say 22%

An Independent Television Commission survey found that 22 per cent of viewers believed that BBC1 was biased towards the Conservatives. Six per cent thought it favoured Labour. Seven per cent said ITV was biased towards Labour and 5 per cent towards the Tories.

The findings are in line with similar surveys since 1975. A spokeswoman said: "The public believes the BBC is biased towards the Tories. This belief often goes up during general elections."

## Dean attacks lack of care

The Very Rev Michael Mayne, Dean of Westminster, said last night that it was a scandal that so many mentally ill were on the streets and not cared for by the State. He also called for housing to be higher on the political agenda. "Calves in wooden crates, cattle huge sympathy," he said. "Human beings in cardboard boxes don't." He accused the Government of "squeezing the poorest in society more than ever before".

## Betting exposed

Passers-by will get an inside view of betting shops from today when a new law allows "see-through" frontages. Shops can also advertise bets in their windows and provide larger televisions and a wider choice of refreshments. A Coral spokesman said three redesigned shops would open today and a further 250 within three months.

## Four share £11m

Four factory workers from the West Midlands have won £11 million in the National Lottery. The four, one from Tipton and three from the Wolverhampton area, each receive almost £3 million from last week's £22 million jackpot draw. All left their £100-a-week jobs at the factory in Tipton yesterday to enjoy their new found wealth.

## Liner 'running in'

The *Oriana* will travel at little more than half maximum speed as the engines are "run in" during her first year of service. Soon after the Queen performs the official naming today the cruise liner will be prepared for her first cruise, during which she will not exceed 27 knots, compared with the maximum of 26 knots. Focus, pages 18-21.

## Cantona moves

Eric Cantona, the Manchester United player, had to move out of his rented home in Salford yesterday after a bid by the club to buy the house failed. The French striker has moved to an undisclosed address in Manchester with his wife, Isobelle, who is eight months pregnant, and Raphael, his eight-year-old son.

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## Former minister now firm's director

# Wakeham's role in giving contract to be investigated

BY NIGEL WILLIAMSON

THE National Audit Office is to investigate a multimillion-pound contract awarded by Lord Wakeham when he was a government minister to a company of which he is now a director.

The contract was awarded to N.M. Rothschild for advice on the privatisation of British Coal in May 1991 when Lord Wakeham was Energy Secretary. The company is continuing to provide advice and is being paid at an hourly rate.

The value of the contract has not been disclosed on the ground of "commercial confidentiality". But at £200 an hour — an average fee for a merchant bank undertaking such work — Lord Wakeham's new employers will have earned about £7.4 million from the contract that has so far yielded 37,000 hours of work.

Lord Wakeham was appointed a non-executive director of Rothschild's in January at £50,000 a year, six months after he left the Cabinet. His appointment was criticised by opposition MPs over the potential conflict of interest, and equally stoutly defended by Conservative ministers and by Downing Street. On January 25, a prime ministerial aide said: "It is three years since Lord Wakeham was Secretary of State for Energy and many months since he was in the Government. In 1995 the fellow is entitled to take a job."

What was not widely known at the time was that the



Wakeham: defended

contract awarded by Lord Wakeham in 1991 was still in force.

Rothschild's was one of eight companies to tender for the work but the Government will not say if it submitted the lowest bid, merely that it offered "the best value for money".

Lord Wakeham yesterday pointed out that when he entered the House of Commons in 1974 he held 62 directorships which he had had to give up on becoming a minister.

The NAO inquiry comes as Lord Nolan finalises his first

report on standards in public life. The report, due to be published next month, is likely to propose much tighter restrictions on former government ministers moving to private sector jobs. His committee has been considering the imposition of a quarantine period on such moves.

Other members of Margaret Thatcher's Cabinet from 1988-89 hold private sector jobs. Kenneth Baker, Director: Hanson, Torrey Investments, Videotron Holdings, Bell Cablemedia, Adviser: Cable & Wireless, IC, Sir Norman Fowler, Director: National Freight Corporation, Midland Independent Newspapers. Lord Howe of Aberavon, Director: Glaxo, BICC, Tom King, Director: Electra Investment Trust, London International Exhibition Centre. Norman Lamont, Director: NM Rothschild, First Philippine Investment Trust, Taiwan Investment Trust, Lord Lawson of Blaby, Director: Barclays Bank, Chairman: Central European Trust, John MacGregor, Deputy chairman: Hill Samuel Bank, Director: Slough Estates, Associated British Foods, Lord Parkinson, Director: Dartford River Crossing, Eurorail, Midland Expressway, Chairman: Osborne, Jarvis Harpenden, Lord Walker of Worcester, Director: British Gas, Dalgety, Tate and Lyle, Chairman: Cornhill Insurance, Thornton Management, Tarnit Finance, Lord Young of Graffham, Chairman: Cable and Wireless.



Torrey: described during a trial at the Old Bailey as the INLA's chief of staff

## Irish charge four after weapons cache seized

BY NICHOLAS WATT  
IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

A MAN once described as the Old Bailey as the chief of staff of the outlawed Irish National Liberation Army appeared in court in Dublin yesterday with three other men after Irish police intercepted a car and seized a cache of weapons.

The seizure came amid security fears in Northern Ireland that the INLA was poised to renew its terrorist campaign after Easter. A security source described the arrests as a major breakthrough. The four suspected members of the INLA appeared before Dublin's anti-terrorist Special Criminal Court charged with the unlawful possession of weapons with intent to endanger life.

They included Hugh Torrey, who was described at an Old Bailey terrorist trial in 1993 as the INLA chief of staff, and Anthony Gorman, who is wanted in Britain for questioning about the murder of a sergeant outside an army recruiting office in Derby in 1992. The four were arrested on Tuesday on the Dublin to Belfast road. They were charged with the unlawful possession of 26 rifles and pistols and 2,500 rounds of ammunition with intent to



Gorman: arms charge

endanger life and were remanded in custody until April 25. The other men in court were Sean Braniff, 41, and Dessie McCleery, 41, both from Belfast.

Torrey, 41, from Belfast, was named as chief of staff by Peter Daly, an MI5 informant, at the trial of two INLA terrorists in 1993. Gorman, 25, from Armagh, escaped extradition to Britain last year when he was freed by the Dublin District Court after the Irish state offered no evidence against him.

The INLA refused to support the IRA ceasefire last year and is opposed to the current

peace process. The men were arrested when detectives intercepted a car and a van on the Dublin to Belfast road near Balbriggan, Dublin. The police, supported by an air corps helicopter, disoriented the group by throwing stun grenades at the two vehicles.

The weapons, which were put on show by police in Dublin yesterday, included two Kalashnikovs and two American sub-machineguns.

The security source said that the INLA, which has been responsible for notorious terrorist attacks, including the assassination of Airey Neave in 1979, wanted to restart its campaign after Easter. It is understood that there has been mounting pressure within the INLA to launch attacks against the security forces in Northern Ireland.

A loyalist leader said yesterday that the arrests would slow down the decommissioning of weapons held by Protestant paramilitaries. Gary McMichael, the leader of the Ulster Democratic Party, which has links to the Ulster Defence Association, said it would be "grossly unrealistic" to expect loyalists to engage in decommissioning their weapons when they might be needed for defence against republican attack.

## Condemned man in court

Continued from page 1  
lawyers pleaded for a stay of execution. His case was also due to be heard by the Georgia Board of Pardons and Paroles yesterday, when his lawyers and family, including his mother Ann Ingram, will make their most strenuous appeal for clemency so far. Decisions in both cases were due to be made known this morning.

This is God-fearing, but also man-fearing, country. Many of the small bungalows Ingram passed on his short drive to court through the Georgia countryside have elaborate security systems against intruders and most Georgia residents are convinced that the death penalty is the only just and proper treatment for murderers.

As he returned to death row, he would have passed, but may not have noticed, the sign outside a gospel church ex-

horting him to "preach the Gospel at all times: when necessary, use words".

Words are now all that stand between Ingram and the electric chair. In yesterday's appeal for a stay of execution Ingram was described as "the victim of a mean-spirited and vicious family environment" and as a troubled young man unfairly convicted of a crime that he does not remember because of alcoholic amnesia.

The petition says that, unknown to his defence lawyers, Ingram was taking the anti-psychotic drug Thorazine throughout his trial, which he spent in a "drug-induced haze". It adds: "Nick Ingram looked remorseless because he was a zombie drugged on Thorazine."

The Georgia board has granted clemency just five times in the 23 applications it has heard since the death penalty was introduced in

1976. Workers at the classification centre spent yesterday sprucing up the surrounding lawns in anticipation of the arrival of the world's press. Ingram's impending execution has caused barely a ripple in Georgia, but the intense media interest surrounding his fate in Britain has now become a factor in the case. "Ingram is a British citizen and the British, long-time allies of this country, desperately do not want a native son put to death in the electric chair," his plea claims.

The petition even cites a letter to the court from a private individual, warning that the execution could tarnish Georgia's image as host of the 1996 Olympics: "with the Olympics coming up next year [in Atlanta], does Georgia want to label itself as the executing state?"

Letters, page 15

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Rachel Nickell's father welcomes civil trial

## Colin Stagg wins legal aid to sue police over arrest

By STEWART TENDLER  
CRIME CORRESPONDENT

COLIN STAGG, the man acquitted last year of murdering Rachel Nickell on Wimbledon Common, is to sue the police over his arrest and prosecution.

Mr Stagg, who faces criminal proceedings today with his girlfriend Diane Beedles over affray and offensive weapons charges in January on the same common, announced in a statement yesterday that he had been granted legal aid for his action.

The decision to sue the police could mean that much of the evidence and the background of the police decision to arrest Mr Stagg, 31, of Roehampton, southwest London, will be heard by a jury in open court. The jury would make its decision on the basis of the "balance of probabilities" in the case rather than the stricter rule in criminal cases of "beyond all reasonable doubt".

Rachel's father Andrew Nickell said last night that the evidence against Mr Stagg would at last be heard and the "integrity, honesty and hard work" of the police could be defended. Rachel, 23, was stabbed to death in a frenzied sex attack in front of her two-year-old son on Wimbledon Common in July 1992. Mr Stagg was arrested in August 1993 after an eight-month operation involving an undercover policeman who befriended him and tried to lure him into a confession.

Mr Stagg's trial at the Old Bailey last September was aborted after Mr Justice Ognall criticised the police for a "blatant attempt to incriminate a suspect by positive and deceptive conduct of the grossest kind". He rejected evidence gathered by the policeman on the advice of a psychologist and the prosecution collapsed.

One legal expert said yesterday that the case might take several years to come to court. Scotland Yard could settle out



Stagg cleared



Rachel murdered

of court although senior officers are opposed to such decisions. Last year it paid out £1.7 million in damages and the increase in litigation against the police is at the centre of a special conference in London today.

The largest single amount of damages paid by Scotland Yard was more than £200,000 to a north London man for the loss of an eye after an assault by police. Mr Stagg is likely to press for very considerable damages and amounts of more than £250,000 have been mentioned.

Yesterday he said in a statement: "When I was acquitted last year I promised to sue the Metropolitan Police for ruining my life and putting

me in prison for 13 months for a crime I did not commit. Legal aid has now been granted for me to take proceedings for malicious prosecution and wrongful arrest against the police and nothing has happened to make me change my mind. I hope that the media will now respect my privacy after two and a half very difficult years."

His solicitor, Ian Ryan, said the proceedings would be started over the next few months. He would not put a figure on the amount of damages Mr Stagg would be seeking. Mr Ryan said he was "not overly concerned" about the police evidence turning the civil action into a trial of his client. He said: "The Crown offered no evidence because they had no case once the undercover evidence was ruled out. Even if the undercover evidence is heard, it does not amount to much. There is not a shred of evidence against him."

Last night Rachel's father Andrew Nickell said in a statement: "We are lucky enough to live in a free society with very well developed legal and social systems. Mr Stagg has been supported and helped by that society since he left school."

"Quite rightly when charged with murder he was granted legal aid and assembled a team of solicitors and barristers who eventually incurred costs of many hundreds of thousands of pounds. I am somewhat surprised that legal aid has been granted for what is a civil action, when I believe that Mr Stagg received in excess of £100,000 from newspapers for his story less than six months ago."

"However, because all the evidence against Mr Stagg was not heard at the Old Bailey... I hope that all the evidence found by the police will now be heard in a civil court in front of a judge and jury. I sincerely hope that grounds of financial expediency are not used to settle out of court."



Senior vet James Kirkwood tending the injured bird at London Zoo yesterday

## Rare kite shot 'on purpose'

By MICHAEL HORNSBY  
COUNTRYWIDE CORRESPONDENT

A RARE red kite is being treated at London Zoo after being found with a shotgun wound to its wing.

The bird of prey is one of a small population of red kites reintroduced to England and Scotland from Sweden and Spain six years ago. It was found near Watlington, Oxfordshire, and is being treated at the zoo's Institute of Zoology. If it survives it will be returned to the wild.

Detective Inspector John Hayward, wildlife liaison officer for Thames Valley Police, said: "This is one of the worst conservation crimes I have dealt with in years. The loss of a single



The kite's damaged wing

bird at this crucial time would have a very serious effect on the breeding programme."

Andy Jones, head of investigations at the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, said: "The red kite is distinctive and could not have been shot by accident."

Once abundant throughout Britain, the chestnut-

coloured birds, which have a wing span of up to 5ft, had been hunted to extinction in England and Scotland by 1850. A few pairs survived in Wales, but the species was on the brink of extinction when the project to restore red kites to England and Scotland was launched in 1989.

In 1994 the reintroduced birds had their most successful breeding year, with the 20 English pairs producing 37 offspring and the eight Scottish pairs giving birth to a further 13. It is the first time any of the birds have been shot. Two others died after eating poisoned bait, one in Derbyshire two years ago and the other four years ago in the same area of Oxfordshire where the shooting occurred.

## Coma woman kept alive for unborn baby

By TIM JONES

A WOMAN given virtually no chance of recovering from head injuries sustained in a car crash is being kept alive so that her unborn baby can live.

Karen Battenbough, 24, has been in a coma for six weeks, but her baby, which is developing normally, is not due for a further ten weeks. Doctors at Morriston Hospital, Swansea, are giving Mrs Battenbough enough protein and liquid food to feed the baby, which her husband Michael can feel kicking inside her.

His wife suffered serious head and spine injuries when the family car crashed into the back of a parked bus on a motorway sliproad near their home in Swansea. Mr Battenbough and their daughter Sarah-Jane, 7, had only minor injuries.

He said that his wife was keen to have another child. "It would be her wish for the baby to live regardless of her own health."

Mr Battenbough, a care worker with mentally handicapped people, has spent eight hours a day at her bedside caressing her and playing her favourite music in the hope that she will regain consciousness. He said: "She is lying there, alive but not alive, but the baby is healthy and well. At the end of the day the baby will be the only thing. It will be all I have left of Karen except my memories."

He has been told by doctors that because of her injuries only part of her brain is working, but it is enough to keep her breathing. Mr Battenbough said: "I know she will never have a useful life

again. I don't want her to live the life of a cabbage."

"I am breaking my heart. It is a nightmare. I keep thinking, hoping and praying she will wake up. I am hoping against hope that Karen will stay alive until the baby is born. I don't want to be faced with the awful dilemma of having to choose between them. I love my wife very much and she must come first."

Mrs Battenbough, who is making small movements of her hands and feet, was taken of a life-support machine two weeks ago and is breathing by herself.

Paul Baker, deputy director of operations at the hospital, said: "This lady is very seriously ill but her baby appears to be healthy and not affected by the road accident. As we get closer to the birth we will be having discussions with her husband about plans for the birth by Caesarean section."



Karen Battenbough

## Soap actor cleared of beer glass attack

SID OWEN, who plays Ricky Butcher in the television soap *EastEnders*, sobbed with relief yesterday when he was cleared of attacking an estate agent with a beer glass at Epping Forest Country Club, Essex.

The actor, from Wanstead, east London, was found not guilty of two wounding charges by Snaresbrook

Crown Court. Mark Falshaw, 23, of Loughton, Essex, said he needed hospital treatment for an inch-long wound.

Mr Owen, 23, said that Mr Falshaw had become aggressive, punching him once, hitting him in the nose and mouth. The man then tried to headbutt him and in self-defence he had raised the hand holding the glass.

## Harley Street doctor's widow is cleared of swindling benefits

By LUCY BERRINGTON

THE young widow of a Harley Street doctor walked free from court yesterday after the collapse of a case alleging that she swindled nearly £2,000 in welfare benefits.

Gilda Ratner, whose husband Victor's patients included Princess Margaret and Elizabeth Taylor, was acquitted after the prosecution offered no evidence. But within minutes the former model was served with a statutory demand for £47,000 in back rents on behalf of her former Harley Street landlord.

The Department of Social Security alleged at Horseferry Road Magistrates' Court in central London that Mrs

Ratner did not declare she was letting rooms in her former Harley Street home or that she was administrator of her late husband's estate, so was not entitled to £1,993 she received in income support.

The four charges were dropped after Ros Keating, the magistrate, said that Mrs Ratner might have been collecting the rent on behalf of her late husband's estate and so did not have to report it.

Victor Ratner died in August 1993, aged 61, of a drug overdose. His widow faces bankruptcy after being served with the demand for back rent by Terry Toher, a private detective, on behalf of Howard

de Walden Estates. Bankruptcy proceedings would be started against her if she did not pay within 21 days. Mr Toher said.

Mrs Ratner, who was receiving legal aid, said she planned to relaunch her modelling career and to remarry soon. Originally from Sierra Leone, Mrs Ratner, who gives her age as 25 but is believed to be 21, has a son Joshua, 4, to whom she gave birth hours after marrying her husband in 1990. Last December she was acquitted of defrauding one of his patients, the daughter of Lord Hartwell, former proprietor of *The Daily Telegraph*, of nearly £17,000.



Ratner: to remarry

## Scientist made Ecstasy in error

By MARIANNE DARCH

A SCIENTIST who manufactured £400,000 worth of Ecstasy walked free from court yesterday after persuading a jury that he had been trying to make a hay-fever cure.

James Edgar was arrested after police found a bath tub containing 1.3kg of the class A drug in his laboratory at Takeley, Essex, in November 1993. But Mr Edgar, 46, said that an inexplicable chemical reaction had turned his "revolutionary anti-pollutant" into Ecstasy.

He told the court that the chemical formula of his product, known as MDMPA, was very similar to that of Ecstasy, or MDMA, but that he had done everything possible to avoid getting the two mixed up. Obviously something had gone wrong, he said.

Jeremy Carter-Manning, QC, for the prosecution, said that it was accepted not only that Mr Edgar had known how to make Ecstasy but that he had indeed produced it. It was the Crown's case that, rather than making the drug as a bluke, Mr Edgar had done so "deliberately and knowingly". The jury at

Snaresbrook Crown Court took six hours to acquit Mr Edgar. The drugs will remain in the possession of the police but Judge Haworth told Mr Edgar that he could sue for their return.

Mr Edgar, of Hoddessdon, Hertfordshire, has worked in the chemical industry for more than 20 years. He said he had received a lot of interest in his hay-fever cure, called Airborne Ten, which was designed to combat environmental hazards including sewage smells and acid rain.

During his research he ran into a few "teething problems" because chemicals he had been using "split" when subjected to high temperatures needed in the process, he told the jury. To try to overcome this, he started experimenting with a chemical whose structure could be rendered into a more complex form, thereby producing Ecstasy.

The judge directed that seven further charges against Mr Edgar relating to the manufacture of steroids and trademark offences were to be left on the court file.

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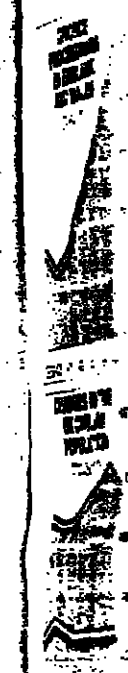
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Looting, strikes, family breakdown: anniversary figures paint stark portrait of a nation at war

# Statistics explode cosy myth of life on the home front

By JOHN YOUNG

THE cosy image of wartime Britain as a crime-free society with people working shoulder to shoulder and sharing hardship takes a severe knock in a study that reveals a soaring divorce rate and a 42 per cent rise in the prison population.

The profound, far-reaching effects of the Second World War on the social and economic fabric are underlined in the study compiled by the Central Statistical Office and published today as a contribution to the 50th anniversary commemorations.

With the aid of hundreds of graphs and tables, *Fighting with Figures* not only provides a sombre picture of a nation at war but also suggests that the familiar picture of cheerful resilience and pulling together for a common cause is some way removed from reality.

Between 1939 and 1945 recorded crime rose by more than half and the prison population by 42 per cent. Breaking and entering of fences rose alarmingly - from 11,714 in 1939 to 21,263 in 1945 - mainly as a result of bombed or deserted properties being looted.

Mobilisation and evacuation placed great pressure on

families, leading to declining rates of marriage, divorces increasing almost fourfold and illegitimate births doubling to 9 per cent. The evacuation of more than four million mothers and children from urban to rural areas brought important changes in the scope of welfare services and social attitudes. Medical services were placed under enormous strain, and the housing stock deteriorated as a result of air raids and a lack of investment. Two in seven houses were destroyed or damaged, and one fifth of the nation's schools and hospitals were put out of action.

Dr Peter Howlett, of the London School of Economics, who compiled the text, said yesterday that strikes in industry were quite frequent, and that there was considerable resistance to the employment of women in factories and even more so in the shipyards. That contrasts with newsreel footage of smiling women being welcomed into the workplace, and may have been partly motivated by the men's awareness that, if women took their jobs, they would be free for military service.

On the positive side, despite rationing and shortages, the health of the nation improved, partly as a result of immunisation campaigns against diseases such as measles, scarlet fever, whooping cough and diphtheria. But there were other important factors such as the introduction of school meals, subsidised milk for young children and expectant mothers and the distribution of vitamins, orange juice and cod liver oil.

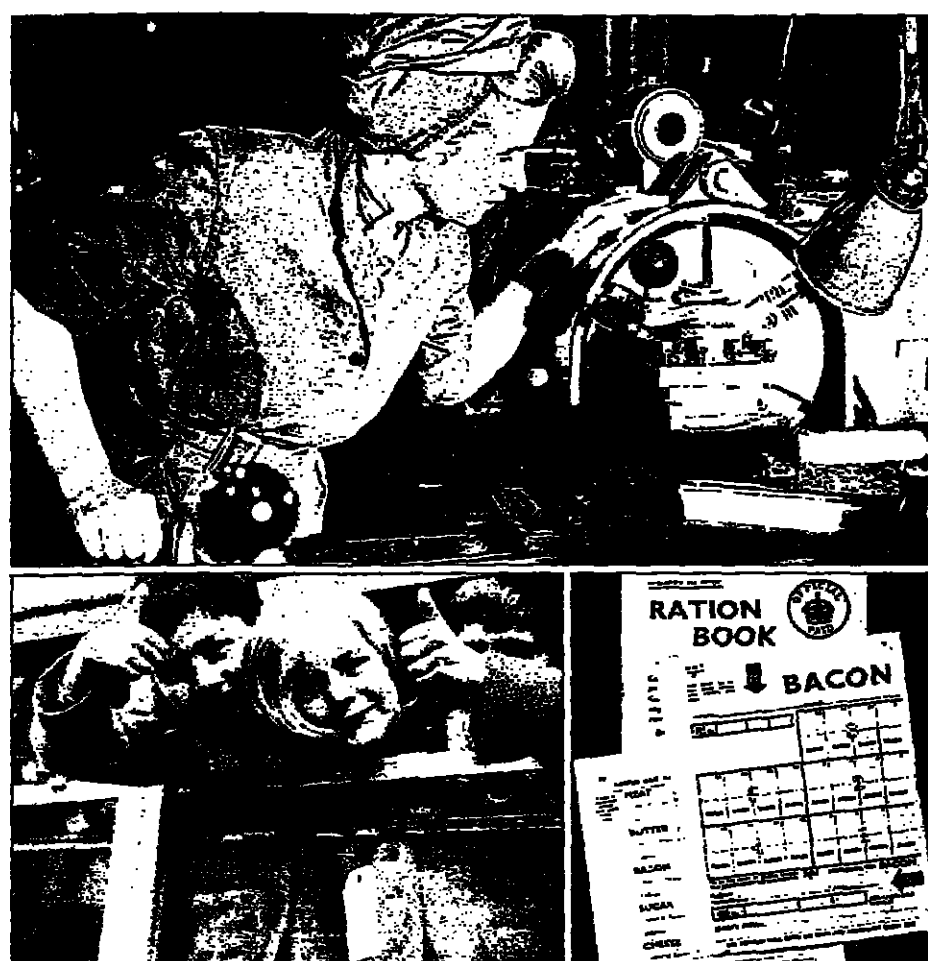
Food rationing improved the diet of the poorest section of the population and ensured the best possible use of resources. Imports halved during the first three years of the war from more than 22 million tonnes to 11 million tonnes, due to lack of access to enemy-controlled markets, the need to make the best use of scarce shipping capacity and, most importantly, the pressure on Britain's currency reserves.

The result was a drastic change in farming patterns with, as it proved, long-term

effects on the countryside. The encouragement of arable production at the expense of livestock resulted in rises of 81 per cent in home-grown wheat, 92 per cent in potatoes and 30 per cent in vegetables, while the number of pigs fell by 58 per cent, poultry by 45 per cent and sheep by 24 per cent. Yields were significantly increased by the greater use of machinery and fertilisers.

Central government expenditure rose from around £1,000 million a year at the beginning of the war to more than £6,000 million at the end, and the proportion spent on defence increased from 40 per cent to 90 per cent. Although tax revenue increased, the main cost of the war had to be met by borrowing, leaving a legacy of national debt.

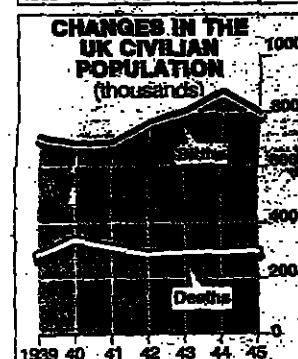
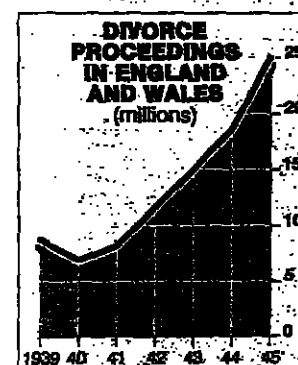
Women at war, page 12



New orders: women went into factories for the first time and evacuation put great strain on families, but rationing helped to improve the diet of the poor

## STATISTICS 1939-1945

- More than 40 million people were killed in the Second World War, more than 25 million in the former Soviet Union, 6,500,000 in Germany, six million in Poland and nearly 2,500,000 in Japan.
- British deaths as a direct result of the war were some 360,000, of whom more than 67,000 were civilians, almost all killed in air raids. That was a much lighter toll than suffered by any of the other main combatant nations except the United States, and compared with 620,000 British servicemen killed in the First World War.
- More than half the military fatalities were in the Army, a quarter in the Royal Air Force and one fifth in the Royal Navy. More than 30,000 merchant seamen lost their lives.
- Despite casualties, the population of Britain increased from 47.8 million to 49.2 million. The increase in illegitimate births, from 4.4 per cent to more than 9 per cent, is partly explained by wartime liaisons.
- Weekly earnings rose from £2 13s 3d (about £2.66p) in October 1938 to £4 16s 1d (about £4.40) in July 1945.
- Pay-as-you-earn income tax was introduced in 1943.
- National income increased by two thirds, and at its wartime peak gross domestic product was 25 per cent above its 1939 level. Economic growth was second only to that of the United States, which experienced a 65 per cent increase.
- Some 222,000 houses were destroyed and a further 3.5 million damaged by bombing raids.
- The working population increased from 19.5 million in 1938 to a wartime peak of 22.3 million, largely due to a huge influx of women.
- The strength of the armed forces rose from 1,270,000 at the outbreak of the war to more than three million by March 1941 and nearly five million in 1945.
- Subsidies to agriculture increased from £13 million to £162 million a year.
- Imports from the rest of Europe fell from £308 million in 1938 to £130 million in 1945, while imports from North America rose from £199 million to £527 million.
- More than 13,500 British-registered merchant ships were lost between 1939 and 1945.



## New trust to protect Galapagos Islands

By NIGEL HAWKES

A TRUST to protect the Galapagos Islands, the world's living laboratory of evolution 600 miles off the Ecuador coast, was launched in London last night.

Dr David Bellamy, the botanist, gave warning that the unique character of the islands was "under terminal attack" from a growing human presence and the introduction of non-indigenous species of plant and wildlife. The Galapagos Conservation Trust aims to raise money and heighten awareness of the importance of the islands, which Charles Darwin visited in 1835 and used to support his theories of evolution.

Thanks to tourism, the islanders enjoy the highest standard of living of any province in Ecuador and the population has been growing at 8 per cent a year. Julian Firer, chairman of the trust, said: "All these people can't find work in the tourist industry, so they turn to other things, like fishing. They also introduce alien animals and plants."

A colony of 80,000 goats is destroying the natural flora and sea cucumbers, sharks and lobsters are under threat from illegal fishing.

Leading article, page 15

## Set-aside foils plan to plough for victory

RED tape has put paid to a ploughing match organised to celebrate VE-day.

Villagers in Haddenham, Buckinghamshire, had planned to hold the match as part of next month's celebrations to mark the 50th anniversary of the end of the Second World War. But under European Union rules, the field of set-aside land cannot be ploughed until July to protect ground-nesting birds.

Michael Whitney, the organiser, said: "We are all deeply angry and disappointed. On that day we will be celebrating the end of the war in Europe and the homecoming of local people who fought against idiotic mind-boggling mentalities like this."

"They fought for freedom from such idiotcies, not to have them imposed by the countries they had liberated."

Martin Aston, the farmer who offered his field for the contest, said he would lose out financially if he ignored the EU rules. "Letting this field out was my contribution to the VE-day celebrations but I have to comply with the rules because I cannot afford to lose the subsidy."

The rules are aimed at stopping farmers getting the subsidy and then ploughing early to get a crop.

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MPs outraged as minister resorts to written answer on controversial decision for the third time

# Brooke attacks Bottomley for 'moral cowardice'

BY ANDREW PIERCE

HAD it not been the third time in six months that Virginia Bottomley had announced a controversial policy decision in a written answer she might have got away with it.

As it was, the Health Secretary's decision to announce the closure of the 900-year-old St Bartholomew's Hospital with-

firming the bitterly opposed closure of the accident and emergency unit at Bart's by the same means.

In March 1993 she was censured by Betty Boothroyd, the Speaker, for announcing a 13 per cent rise in prescription rises, not by the usual written answer, but by an obscure procedural device. Mrs Bottomley, by tagging the announcement on the end of a written answer to an unrelated question, had not given MPs any warning that the increase was coming. Few MPs could recall a Cabinet minister being given such a blunt rebuke by the Speaker.

Earlier this year Mrs Bottomley announced pre-

scription price rises in a written answer 24 hours after she had fielded questions at



Brooke: infuriated

the dispatch box. Only last week she had two meetings with Tory MPs concerned about the hospital closure, including Mr Brooke, a former Cabinet minister, but declined to reveal the fate of

Bart's or the means by which she would announce it.

Her aides were insisting yesterday that the written answer was justified because it was merely confirmation of strategic policy that had been outlined in the Government's response to the Tomlinson review of London health services in 1992.

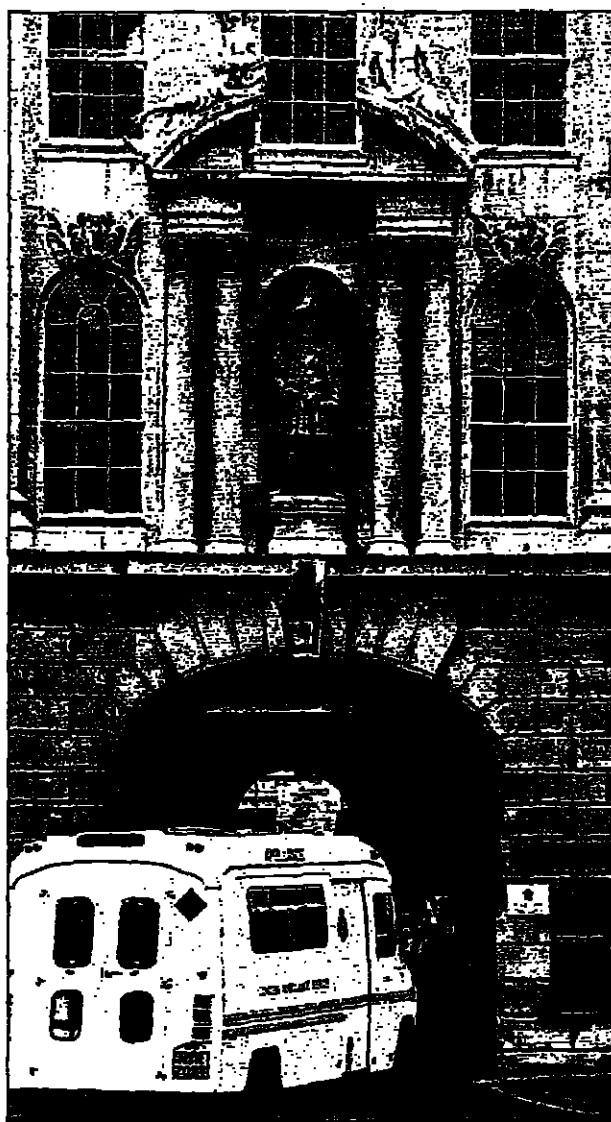
But the 15-page written answer was in fact the final government response to the long consultation process on its reaction to Tomlinson, which spawned a vociferous all-party protest to try to save Bart's. More than 1,000 hospital beds will disappear as a result of the changes announced yesterday.

The closure of Edgware General Hospital, whose demise was not signalled in the Tomlinson review, was the biggest surprise in the announcement. Campaigners believed that, because of the opposition of four local Tory MPs, the Government would back down.

Greenwich District Hospital and the Brook General Hospital, which deal with a combined 35,000 casualties a year, were also confirmed for total closure. They will be absorbed into the Queen Elizabeth Military Hospital in Woolwich, southeast London.

The announcement also confirmed a death sentence on Guy's Hospital, which now faces a rapid rundown of its specialist services in advance of the closure of its casualty department in 1999.

The other changes to London's health services that have been endorsed by Mrs Bottomley include the closure of Queen Elizabeth Hospital for Children, Bethnal Green; St Thomas's to merge with Guy's; St Bartholomew's to be absorbed into the Royal



The entrance to casualty at St Bartholomew's

London Hospital in Whitechapel; closure of the Royal National Throat Nose and Ear Hospital; closure of the Hospital for Tropical Diseases; the University College Hospital, site in Middlesex to close; and the halting of kidney transplants at Dulwich.

Since the Tories came to power in 1979 an estimated 75 hospitals have been closed and the number of beds in the capital has fallen from 26,000 to 16,000.

A new "code of openness" in the NHS was published yesterday to counter accusations that trusts and health authorities are too secretive.

Under the new code, which comes into effect on June 1, trusts and health authorities should make available information about services, targets and standards, costs and effectiveness, policies, complaints systems and how people can access their health records.

Closures announced, page 14

Nicholas Wood, page 14

Leading article, page 15

## Closure plans under attack from all sides of Commons

BY JAMES LANDALE, POLITICAL REPORTER

THE Health Secretary came under fierce attack from MPs on all sides of the Commons yesterday over her plans to close hospitals in London.

Virginia Bottomley was criticised by her own backbenchers for her failure to announce before the House the decision to close St Bartholomew's Hospital and to transfer most patients at Guy's to St Thomas's. In response to an emergency question from the former Cabinet Minister Peter Brooke, who on Tuesday accused her of "moral cowardice" for refusing to face MPs, Mrs Bottomley said the need for change in London was "widely recognised as long overdue".

Mrs Bottomley said her plans had widespread support within the clinical and academic worlds. She said they would strengthen specialist services by concentrating them in centres of excellence; preserve medical teaching and research in London; provide more acute services closer to major centres of population and release money for family doctors in other parts of the capital.

"I hear and understand the concerns which have been expressed," she said. "Let me make it absolutely clear: no accident and emergency facility will close until ministers are satisfied that alternative facilities are not only available but also capable of providing an improved service."

The changes, she said, would be backed by £400 million of capital investment on top of £210 million being spent on primary care. But when she said the changes were about "improving the quality of care" and not "primarily about finance", MPs from both sides jeered.

"They are about better specialist services," she said. "Better teaching and research... equipping modern hospitals to respond more flexibly to the pressures they face. They are about providing more healthcare where Londoners most badly need it - in their communities, their doctors' surgeries, the streets where they live."

Mr Brooke said Mrs Bottomley enjoyed considerable support on the Tory back benches but insisted: "Bart's is a national and international asset and in the post-industrial society such assets are of the highest importance in communicating British medical excellence to the world." What plans, he asked, were there to protect this asset?

Mrs Bottomley replied that Bart's "ethos and culture" would be preserved and enhanced by the changes. She received little support from

her own back benches. Peter (Eltham), backed her, as did Tim Yeo (Suffolk South).

Sir John Gort (Hendon North), who with Sir Rhodes Boyson (C, Brent North) has threatened not to vote with the Government in future on London health matters, told Mrs Bottomley: "You are doing the wrong thing in the wrong way at the wrong time and in the wrong place."

Sir Rhodes said: "Years ago I fought to retain the grammar schools because of their long traditions. We are now, on this side of the House, destroying the same traditions in the hospitals, which to my mind is a form of vandalism."

Roger Sims (C, Chislehurst), congratulated the way Mrs Bottomley had "grasped the nettle" of London's healthcare reform. "But I would plead with you in doing so to show rather more sensitivity than you have shown in the past couple of days," he said.

The former Prime Minister,

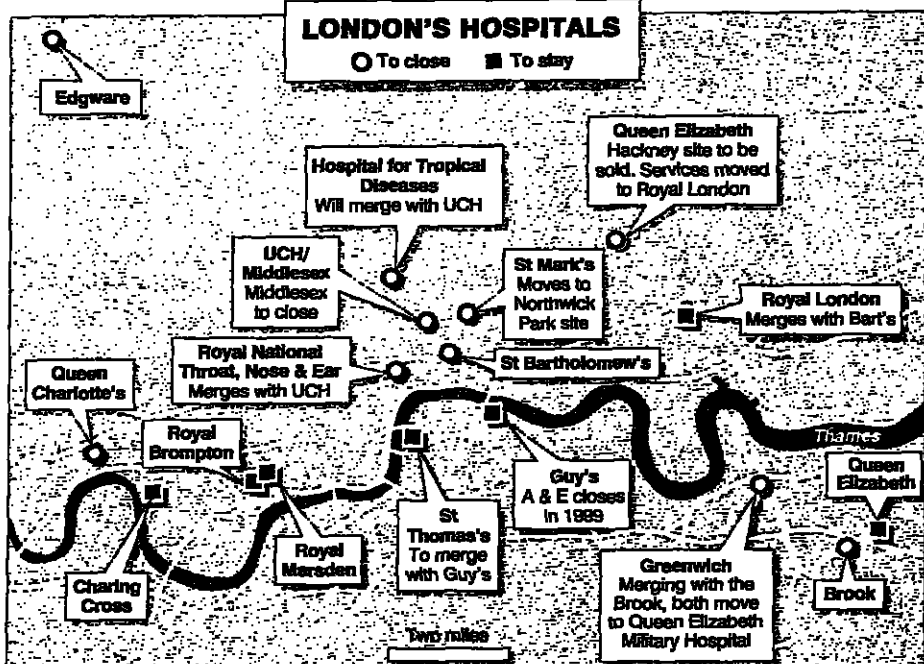
Sir Edward Heath, gave warning about the transfer of neurosurgery from Brook hospital to King's. "Every specialist I have spoken to, and they've been on the telephone to me today, is extremely worried about this, because of the extra distance involved with these usually acute cases," he said.

Margaret Beckett, Shadow Health Secretary, said she hoped Mrs Bottomley recognised that her case was as dubious as the reasons she put forward for not attending the House on Tuesday. She accused her of ignoring the anger of local people.

"Your obstinate refusal to call a halt to closures, and have a fresh assessment of health needs in London, is leading directly to the closure of renowned centres of excellence such as the London Chest Hospital, Bart's and even Guy's itself," she added. "This must be clinical and financial vandalism."

Hugh Dykes, (C, Harrow East), said plans to close the accident and emergency department at Edgware General Hospital were outrageous. "You have not succeeded as a senior member of the Cabinet because you have not, having listened to the hard-faced accountants and the bureaucrats in your own department and elsewhere, then reached your own essential, human, social, clinical, medical and indeed political judgments on these matters," he said.

Matthew Parris, page 2



## Tories topple walls that resisted wrath of Henry VIII

BY ANDREW PIERCE

### ST BARTHOLOMEW'S HOSPITAL

THE doomed St Bartholomew's Hospital, which was founded for the sick and poor of London nearly 900 years ago, had developed a formidable instinct for survival. Virginia Bottomley has succeeded where Henry VIII, the Great Fire of London, the Blitz and Margaret Thatcher all failed.

Henry, in an unusual display of sensitivity to the views of his subjects, performed a rare U-turn and saved Bart's while he was on his deathbed. It had taken eight years of powerful persuasion from, among others, the Lord Mayor of London to persuade the king to relent. Unlike Mrs Bottomley, he was not under pressure from hostile newspaper editorials, candlelit marches, prayers in cathedrals and a backlash from the City.

The hospital was founded in 1123 by Rahere, an Augustinian monk and courier of Henry I, who had contracted malaria on a pilgrimage to Rome and vowed to set up a hospital for the needy if he recovered. In a dream, St Bartholomew instructed him to build a church alongside his hospital on the "smooth field" of London.

Within a few years herbal preparations, nutritious food, and a good rest - the only weapons at that time against disease - were being dispensed in a communal hall on the Smithfield site where the hospital, a parish in its own right, stands today.

The first threat to its survival came in 1539 when Henry's dissolution of the monasteries forced the closure of the priory of St Bartholomew's. But Henry spared the hospital and signed a Royal Charter securing its future. The charter remained in

force until 1948 and the creation of the National Health Service.

It was not only the avaricious desires of Henry VIII that the hospital had to contend with. As doctors fled London during the Plague of 1665 a solitary matron and apothecary kept the hospital open. The next year the Great Fire of London licked at the hospital doors but the central buildings were not damaged.

By the early 1700s Bart's had become a national institution and the first phase of the construction of the present day buildings was completed. A medical school was established in 1822 and a school of nursing added 50 years later.

It was not until the late 1970s that the first question mark hung over the hospital's future. In 1977 a Department of Health report

concluded that the running costs outweighed the benefits to patients. But the report went no further. One senior health official commented at the time: "There is nothing we can do about Bart's. It's sacrosanct."

By the early 1980s the Thatcher government was shifting resources out of central London. Beds were disappearing. But Mrs Thatcher, who famously declared the health service was safe in her hands, was not prepared to lay a finger on such a popular institution.

In 1991 Sir Bernard Tomlinson, a semi-retired academic and doctor, published an official study on the capital's health services - the 19th in a 100 years. The thrust of the recommendations were similar to the ones in 1892: too many hospitals competing for too few patients.

But by February 1993, Bart's seemed to have won a reprieve. A petition with



Bart's, founded by Rahere, an Augustinian monk, in 1123, first came under threat from Henry VIII

500,000 signatures had gone to Downing Street, business people and the Corporation of London had opened a second line of attack and the Lord Mayor of London had called for a stay of execution.

They had not reckoned on Mrs Bottomley. The Health Secretary insisted that the hospital had to go. The Department of Health was not "an arm of the Heritage Department", she said.

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MoD report recommends fewer chiefs, performance pay and incentives to sign up for eight years

## Top ranks under fire in shake-up of armed forces

By MICHAEL EVANS  
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

**RADICAL** recommendations to axe the most senior military ranks and slash allowances in the armed forces were unveiled yesterday by the Ministry of Defence.

Among the 150 recommendations of a critical study commissioned by the Defence Secretary Malcolm Rifkind are proposals that the "five-star" ranks of Field Marshal, Admiral of the Fleet and Marshal of the RAF should disappear.

The study also suggests a more flexible pay structure — related to performance and experience, not just rank — and that personnel be encouraged to sign up for between eight and 12 years, with substantial lump-sum bonuses at the ages of 30, 40 and 55.

Another recommendation is that special allowances, such as those given for flying, diving and parachuting, should be merged into the new pay structure and that a new

PROPOSED OFFICER STRUCTURES			
RAF	Army	Royal Navy	Bett structure
Marshal of the RAF	Field Marshal	Admiral of the Fleet	1 Rank
General	General	Admiral	1 Rank
Lieutenant General	Lieutenant General	Vice-Admiral	1 Rank
Major General	Major General	Commodore	1 Rank
Brigadier	Brigadier	Captain	1 Rank
Colonel	Colonel	Commander	1 Rank
Lieutenant Colonel	Lieutenant Colonel	Major	No change
Major	Major	Captain	No change
Company Captain	Company Captain	Lieutenant	No change
Lieutenant	Lieutenant	Sub-Lieutenant	1 Rank
Second Lieutenant	Second Lieutenant	Sub-Lieutenant	1 Rank

deployment allowance should be paid to Army and RAF personnel who are frequently sent abroad for periods that add up to more than a year. The Navy already awards a bonus for longer service at sea.

The report, published as a Green Paper yesterday, is by Michael Bett, a former deputy chairman of BT. Mr Bett, who began his inquiry into the career and manpower struc-

tures and conditions of service in the armed forces a year ago, admitted that performance-related pay had proved "an emotive subject, fraught with misunderstanding".

If implemented, it could mean, for example, that a colonel in a responsible post could be paid more than a brigadier. However, Mr Bett concluded: "We do believe that account should be taken of an individual's performance,

based on the judgment of his superior officers. Performance should play an increasing part in pay progress."

Under the proposals, pay ranges would be developed for all three services, based on job evaluation "scores". These pay ranges would overlap between ranks, "recognising that the most effective person in one rank could be worth a higher salary than the least experienced person in a rank above".

Individuals would still receive a "reasonable" pay increase on promotion but not "the step-change" usually involved in current arrangements.

Changes to pay and rank structures are the most controversial recommendations in the Bett report, which will now be sent to every regiment, air base and naval base for a consultation period that could last for a year.

Ministry of Defence officials admitted that some of the proposals were "greener" than others in the Green Paper and would require considerable thought. While there appears



The Bett report suggests that new recruits should be offered a series of long-service bonuses

to be general agreement that some of the antiquated ranks could go, it is recognised as a sensitive area because in the services rank means status.

However, the Bett report says that with all three services reduced in size since the end of the Cold War, there is a need to cut back the number of ranks, especially at the more senior levels, if the forces are to be seen to be cost-

effective. "The existence of so many ranks is more likely than not to result in the creation of unnecessary jobs in order to sustain the current rank structure," the report says.

Under the proposals, the Chief of the Defence Staff would no longer be a five-star appointment, meriting the rank of field marshal if it was an Army appointment. This

would mean he would be a four-star general, the same rank as the Chief of the General Staff, although on a higher salary.

In the other officer amalgamations, lieutenant-generals would merge with major-generals and brigadiers with colonels, although there is no specific recommendation on what the amalgamated rank should be. In other ranks

Warrant Officer 1 and Warrant Officer 2 would be merged, staff sergeant with sergeant, and lance-corporal with corporal.

Boarding school allowances would still be paid but with four years where possible to allow families more stability, there would be less call for servicemen to send their children to fee-paying schools.

## Dental charges escape planned increase of 25%

By JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

THE Government lifted the threat of increased dental charges yesterday, abandoning proposals for a 25 per cent increase. Patients already pay 30 per cent of treatment costs.

At the same time, plans were announced to target NHS dental care on the neediest patients: dentists working in deprived areas are to receive higher payments for treating children.

Patients who face increasing difficulty in finding a dentist who will accept them on the NHS are offered nothing. Official figures show 829,000 patients have been deterred in the past two years by the dentists' dissatisfaction with the remuneration system.

Announcing the changes in a written answer yesterday, Gerald Malone, the Health Minister, said they would reinforce the priority of the dental health of children and end uncertainty.

"By targeting the needy more effectively we will ensure that the taxpayer gets better value for the £1 billion currently spent annually on NHS dentistry," he said.

The flat-rate annual capitation fee paid to dentists for looking after children's teeth

will be varied so that dentists in inner-city areas, where fillings are more common, receive more than dentists in the better-off suburbs.

Mr Malone said that more than £20 million paid to dentists last year in flat-rate fees for adults they had not seen for two years or more was evidence the scheme was not providing value for money. In future, dentists will be required to register patients every year or 18 months in order to claim the payments.

The announcement marks the culmination of a three-year dispute between the Government and the dental profession after dentists' fees were cut by 7 per cent.

The British Dental Association welcomed the proposals. "Peace has broken out," a spokesman said.

Margaret Beckett, the Shadow Health Secretary, said the announcement would not end the crisis in NHS dentistry. "The public remain the losers as NHS dentistry disappears before our eyes."

According to the latest British Social Attitudes survey, almost 350,000 patients have asked their local health authority for help in finding an NHS dentist since July 1992.

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### Notice to Members Results of Voting on Transfer Resolutions

The following are the detailed results of the voting on the proposed Members' Special Resolution and the Borrowing Members' Resolution at the Special General Meeting of the Society held on 11 March 1995 at the London Arena, as reported by the Secretaries, RCMG.

Inserting Members' Special Resolution approving transfer of the Society's business to the Lloyd's Bank Group:

1. Total number of valid votes cast ..... 968,117
2. Approved the Special Resolution ..... 34,466
3. In favour of the Special Resolution ..... 625,758
4. Abstentions ..... 22
5. Votes against the Special Resolution ..... 4,872

6. 94.5% of the valid votes cast were cast in favour of the Special Resolution.

7. Total number of members qualified to vote on the Special Resolution ..... 797,532

8. 75.4% of the members qualified to vote on the Special Resolution voted in favour.

Borrowing Members' Resolution approving transfer of the Society's business to the Lloyd's Bank Group:

1. Total number of valid votes cast ..... 178,362
2. Approved the Borrowing Members' Resolution ..... 45,294
3. In favour of the Borrowing Members' Resolution ..... 132,363
4. Abstentions ..... 2
5. Votes against the Borrowing Members' Resolution ..... 2,912

6. 74.2% of the valid votes cast were cast in favour of the Borrowing Members' Resolution.

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Speech reveals support for principle of a single currency

## Blair puts 'patriotic' case for central role in Europe

By JILL SHERMAN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

TONY BLAIR backed the principle of a single currency yesterday and set out the "patriotic case" for Britain to be at the heart of Europe.

In a strongly pro-European speech, the Labour leader said that if Britain was not centre stage in Europe it would lose its prominent role in the world. A single currency was "highly likely at some point" and was not inconsistent with the nation state. Although he said that Labour would leave its options open he made clear that it would join a single currency provided that it was in Britain's economic interest.

Trying to highlight a distinct difference between Labour and the Tories, Mr Blair insisted that politicians should not bow to opinion polls that suggested that the electorate was becoming increasingly Euro-sceptic. "I am adamant that such an approach would

be folly and we will not pander to it," he said.

Mr Blair, speaking to the Royal Institute of International Affairs in London, accused the Tories of moving steadily in favour of withdrawing from Europe. "Cabinet ministers who defend Europe are excoriated — those that damn it are praised. There is no doubt in the Tory party which side is gaining ground."

But the more that anti-Europeanism was flattered, the stronger it became. "It should be the responsibility of all politicians with the interests of the country at heart to speak out, even if it runs against the lines of popular feeling. The indecision within the Tory party over Europe, fuelled by the whipless MPs, could cause 'incalculable' damage as the Government dithered over its approach. Mr Blair claimed that the

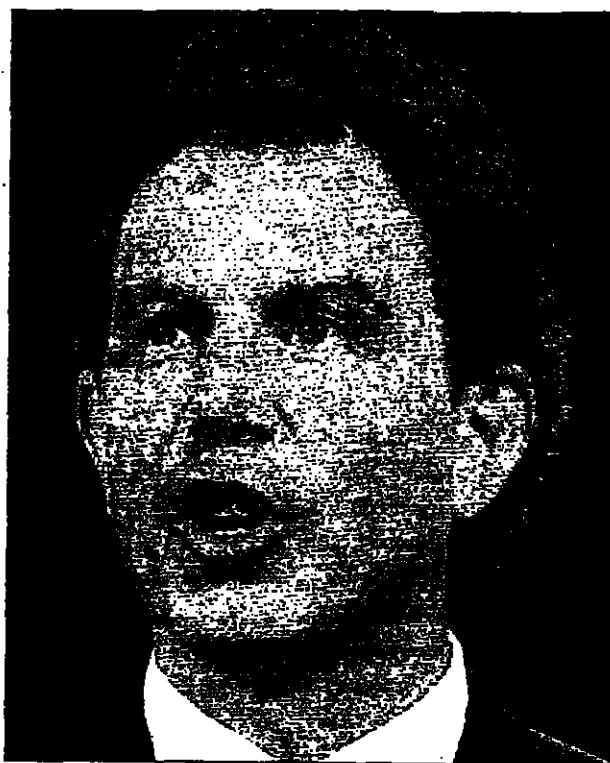
relationship with America was far more valuable if Britain had a central role in Europe. "All routes to influence travel at some point through Europe." In addition Britain's ability to attract foreign investment, and its bargaining clout in trade negotiations, was strongly linked to Europe. "The Japanese, the Americans and the Koreans invest here because we are part of the European Union. If they see us slipping to a second tier, they will put their investment elsewhere," he said. "Forfeit a central role in Europe and we forfeit our opportunity to play a substantial role in the world. In crude terms... that is the patriotic case for Britain in Europe."

For too long British ministers had been sent to Brussels to find out what the European Union was doing and telling it to stop, then when that failed

opting out. "That is not a serious basis for a foreign policy," he said.

He also criticised the Prime Minister for "boxing Britain in" on the inter-governmental conference on Europe next year by insisting that Britain would veto any changes. "Can he really mean it? Is that really a serious position to take at the very beginning?"

Labour, however, would be prepared to agree to the necessary changes to make the European Union more accountable and more efficient while protecting Britain's national veto. Mr Blair said that qualified majority voting would need to be reformed, as it was bad for Britain and bad for Europe. Labour would maintain the veto in areas such as security and immigration and "areas where it is essential in the national interests to do so".



Tony Blair: "All routes to influence go through Europe"

It was vital, he said, that the Tories had a clear policy on economic and monetary union (EMU). "There is only one immediate question on EMU: is it inconsistent with the nation state? If it is, then we must reject it, even if it would be economically prudent to join. If it is not, as I believe,

then we are free to participate fully in the formulation of its institutions and structures, while deciding finally on whether to join on the basis of our national economic interest. We have defined those interests as being satisfied if there is real economic convergence which is sustainable."

## Probation term planned for council tenants

By EDWARD GORMAN

THE Government is proposing to put council tenants on probation in an effort to curb anti-social behaviour on housing estates.

David Curry, the Housing Minister, said yesterday that a secure tenancy would have to be earned over a one-year trial period. During that time, anyone whose behaviour was found to be unacceptable would lose their home.

"It should help to reassure existing tenants that authorities have the means at their disposal to take rapid action to remove any new tenants behaving in this way," he said.

The proposals for the scheme, which would require primary legislation, are in a Green Paper published yesterday. Local authorities, many of which have been pressing for more powers to deal with bad tenants, would have discretion over whether to adopt the system.

Among the anti-social activities cited by Mr Curry were vandalism, noise, verbal abuse, racial harassment, drug taking and repairing cars in the street. Well-behaved tenants would automatically have their tenancies made permanent at the end of the probation period.

The Government is also examining ways of speeding up repossession cases, which are often delayed by the backlog of cases going through the courts. In future the court may be required

only to check that a council has properly issued an eviction notice before approving a repossession, rather than having to examine the reasons behind the decision in detail.

Mr Curry said that the Green Paper would help to regenerate notorious estates where anti-social behaviour by a minority of bad tenants tended to drive the good ones away. The probation system would "load the dice more in favour of decent people".

He rejected suggestions that the Government was helping to create a new underclass of people with nowhere to live. He emphasised that the pressure for the new powers was coming from the local authorities, such as Labour-controlled Manchester and Coventry, and that they would be used only as a last resort.

Carolyn Davidge, of the housing charity Shelter, said that the new powers could be abused. "Some vulnerable people could end up being victims of this — it's a very big worry for us."

David Lums, head of housing at Manchester City Council, said that the Government had done everything the council had asked of it. He predicted that evictions during a probationary tenancy would be used very sparingly, but would have a very effective deterrent effect on irresponsible tenants.

## Criminal injuries compensation

### Howard's decision 'an abuse of power'

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

THE Home Secretary acted unlawfully in introducing a less generous scheme of compensation for victims of crime, the law lords ruled yesterday.

Lord Browne-Wilkinson, upholding an earlier Appeal Court judgment, said the Michael Howard's decision to introduce the flat-rate tariff scheme 12 months ago was an abuse of prerogative power. By a majority of 3-2, the law lords supported arguments put forward by the Trades Union Congress and ten unions and staff associations representing firefighters, teachers, nurses, prison officers and others who face the risk of violence at work.

The unions were worried that the new scheme did not take into account loss of earnings of victims and would leave some of their members with much less than they would have gained under the old compensation system.

The case centred on the introduction of the new tariff based system. The unions argued that it went against the will of Parliament, which had earlier voted to put the more generous scheme on a statutory basis. The 1988 Criminal Justice Act left a discretion as to the date on which the statutory scheme, based on system operating since 1964, came into force.

Mr Howard provoked protests from the Labour Party, former law lords and solicitors

by introducing the new system without going to Parliament. Yesterday Lord Browne-Wilkinson said that Mr Howard's decision to introduce the new system, with payments ranging from £1,000 for a chipped tooth to £250,000 for a seriously crippled, was "unlawful and an abuse of the prerogative power".

He said it did not follow that because the Home Secretary was not under any duty to bring the statutory scheme into effect, he had an absolute and unfettered discretion whether or not to do so. "So to hold would lead to the conclusion that both Houses of Parliament had passed the Bill through all its stages and the Act received Royal Assent merely to confer an enabling power on the executive to decide at will whether or not to make the parliamentary provisions a part of the law."

The new scheme was estimated to save the government £250 million in compensation awards by the beginning of the next century. When the original Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme was introduced 31 years ago, there were 2,452 claims and compensation totalling £400,000. By 1994, compensation had risen to £170 million and the government predicted that by the year 2,001 payments would reach £550 million.

Law Report, page 37

## IN PARLIAMENT

YESTERDAY in the Commons: the Easter adjournment debate; backbench debate on compensation arising from compulsory purchase orders and privatisation costs; questions to trade and industry ministers; a statement on London Hospitals by Virginia Bottomley, the Health Secretary. In

the Lords: debate on the recruitment and training of probation officers and arts funding. TODAY in the Lords: debates on the Mental Health (Patients in the Community) Bill and the Child Support and Income Support (Amendment) Regulations. The House then rises for Easter.

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THE TIMES THURSDAY APRIL 6 1995

# America urged to back new attack on global warming

FROM NICK NUTTALL  
ENVIRONMENT  
CORRESPONDENT  
IN BERLIN

BRITAIN and Germany pressed America yesterday to support deeper cuts in the emission of "greenhouse" gases or risk an increasingly unstable world plagued by costly natural disasters.

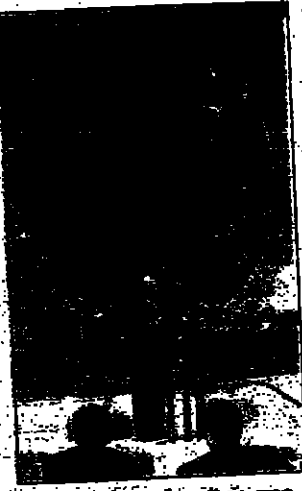
The Clinton Administration has emerged as one of the key stumbling blocks at the Berlin climate summit, where more than 100 nations are meeting to discuss ways of preventing global warming. The main aim of the meeting is to hammer out an agreement to cut power station, industrial and transport-related emissions beyond 2000.

John Gummer, the Environment Secretary, said yesterday that the latest British research from the Hadley meteorological centre "shows very clearly that the timescale of global warming is within the working lifetime of our children. We cannot put short-term political needs ahead of that. We have to find a way through."

President Clinton and Vice-President Al Gore have talked about the need for reductions, but the American delegation in Berlin has studiously avoided any such commitment.

Environmentalists say that the right wing in Congress has been more impressed by the powerful oil lobby than by the warnings of climate scientists.

America is also pegging any potential deal to developing countries agreeing to share the burden of cutting emissions. Mr Gummer, who is proposing a cut of 5 to 10 per cent in greenhouse gases among nations of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and



Kohl yesterday: "no one must shirk the task"

Development by 2010, said he was sympathetic to the American stance: "We need to get everyone on board... but we have also made clear to the Americans that we do expect them to play an active part, and the kind of figures we are talking about are the only kind of figures that will start meeting our obligations."

In a thinly veiled attack on the US position, Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, told delegates: "Preserving creation and securing sustainable development is a task which no one must shirk."

Mr Gummer said the European Union had seized the initiative in Berlin and his message to fellow conservatives in Congress was clear.

"They should be encouraged by the word conservative being very close to conservation. The evidence is persuasive that anybody who cares about the next generation should be in the forefront of seeking to avoid climate change," he said that Britain

one of the few nations which was on course to meet its existing climate commitment by stabilising emissions by 2000, had shown that market economics and the environment went hand in hand.

The British Government claims that its success is due to the privatisation of the electricity industry, which has triggered a switch from inefficient generation to more efficient gas power stations.

Herr Kohl's speech was described by delegates as "seizing the moral high ground". The German leader said that protecting the environment had become bogged down by the worldwide recession since the Rio Earth Summit of 1992. He said that too many industrialised nations have seen environmental protection and economic growth as mutually exclusive.

The United Nations said yesterday that the permanent secretariat of the UN climate convention is to be sited in Bonn.



Li Shuxian, the widow of China's last Emperor, at his new tomb yesterday

## China alert to deter democracy protests

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN PEKING

SECURITY at cemeteries in Peking was stepped up yesterday as the Chinese people observed Qing Ming, the day of honouring the dead. Security agencies were on guard against possible demonstrations to remember the fallen of the violent suppression of the pro-democracy demonstrations in Tiananmen Square on June 4, 1989.

Four Western correspondents were asked to leave cemeteries around the capital, including Babaoshan, where the remains of China's leaders are interred or preserved in urns. Qing Ming, the Day of Pure Brightness, is traditionally a time when Chinese sweep the graves of their ancestors, place flowers and choice foods, and pray for their souls.

At the Western Qing Tombs, Li Shuxian, the widow of Pu Yi, China's last Emperor, now in her seventies, prayed at his new grave among his imperial ancestors for the first time. Monks from the officially sanctioned Buddhist Association followed her to the grave, where they chanted sutras for the soul of the departed.

As the sixth anniversary of the Tiananmen massacre approaches, security in Peking has been increased, particularly in view of the serious ill health of Deng Xiaoping, the paramount leader. "We can expect to see increased vigilance

from now until after the Tiananmen anniversary," a foreign diplomat said. It was on Qing Ming in 1976, 19 years ago yesterday, some three months after the death of Chou En-lai, China's revered Premier, that Mr Deng, who has transformed the nation through his free-market reforms since returning to power in 1978, fell from grace, after crowds gathered in Tiananmen Square to lay flowers at the Monument to the People's Heroes, which honours Communist martyrs.

Qing Ming has become a metaphor for remembering China's most honoured leaders, such as Chou, who was regarded during his life as Mr Deng's protector. Mr Deng was blamed for the demonstrations at the monument. Although that peaceful observance was also suppressed with strong-arm tactics and labelled a "counter-revolutionary act", there was later a "reversal of verdicts" which deemed the 1976 demonstrations "patriotic".

Many Chinese expect that one day there may also be a reversal of verdicts on the June 1989 protests, possibly after Mr Deng dies, which would bode ill for China's present leaders and might restore such deposed figures as Zhao Ziyang, the former Premier, who lost power just before the Tiananmen suppression for allegedly showing sympathy with the demonstrating students.



## Pyramids motorway plan is scrapped

FROM REUTERS  
IN CAIRO

AFTER months of controversy over encroachments on the area around the Great Pyramids, the Egyptian Government has finally abandoned plans to build a motorway past the only surviving wonder of the ancient world.

The Government will adopt a new route avoiding the pyramids, one of the most important places on UNESCO's list of World Heritage Sites, according to a statement yesterday by a team from the United Nations group and Egypt's Supreme Council for Antiquities.

The authorities will probably remove a half-finished stretch of eight-lane road which ends about two miles from the Great Pyramid of Cheops, Abdelhakim Nouredin, the SCA secretary-general, said.

President Mubarak suspended work on the motorway late last year after Federico Mayor, UNESCO's director-general, wrote to complain that the project and other developments violated an international convention on heritage sites. No final decision was taken until this week's talks with the UNESCO mission.

The statement added that the SCA and local Giza administration were planning to do more to remove other developments on the site, which contains blocks of flats, a factory, military camps and two large rubbish dumps.

"We will certainly not allow any further building, even one as far as the existing violation. I can't say we will remove them tomorrow because I can't throw people out on the street," Mr Nouredin said.

He declined to say how much Egypt had wasted by starting work on the road, and added: "The cost doesn't matter, even if it had cost billions. The site is unique."

## Bhutto seeks US support

BENAZIR BHUTTO, the Pakistani Prime Minister, began an official visit to America yesterday in search of weapons, money and political support (Christopher Thomas writes). Washington's good-will has become vital to her fortunes at home as she struggles to stem the country's slide into political chaos, threatening its young democracy.

She will not be fettered as she was on her last visit in 1989. This time she faces tough questions about her own performance, about chaos in Karachi, the drugs crisis, and the nuclear programme.

## Polio deaths deal blow to India

Delhi: India's fight against polio has suffered a potentially devastating setback with the death of 11 children, all less than a year old, who received outdated vaccines at a rural clinic (Christopher Thomas writes). The tragedy could disrupt a mass vaccination campaign aimed at destroying the disease in one of its last strongholds. About 60 per cent of the world's crippling cases of polio are in India, which has 100 million children under five — the highest risk group.

## Mrs Mandela threatens to sue

Johannesburg: Winnie Mandela, the estranged wife of the South African President, is threatening to sue him and his senior colleagues over her dismissal from the Government (Michael Hamlyn writes). Mrs Mandela was sacked as Deputy Minister of Arts, Culture, Science and Technology eight days ago. Her lawyers said yesterday that her suit would also name Thabo Mbeki, the First Deputy President, and other African National Congress politicians.

## France honours Hollywood stars

Paris: The American film stars Lauren Bacall and Dustin Hoffman have been given two of France's highest cultural honours. The widow of Humphrey Bogart, who appeared in *Pier à Porter*, was made a Commander of the Order of Arts and Letters at a ceremony in Paris. Hoffman, whose latest film is *Outbreak*, was named an Officer of the order. (AFP)

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# PC WORLD

## THE COMPUTER SUPERSTORE



# Dictatorial Fujimori finds support for campaign in the slums of Peru



Fujimori: identified closely with army

FROM GABRIELLA GAMINI  
IN AREQUIPA, SOUTHERN PERU

"FOLLOW ME, my people," said the round-faced, bespectacled President Fujimori as he stood with his hands raised up in the glaring sun on a platform in front of a crowd of shanty town dwellers.

"I have brought you light and water. If you follow me, you will have a better future."

The dust-covered faces of at least a thousand locals who had waited all day in the Andean sun for this speech had never seen a president in person before. So, despite muttering quietly about not having any run-

ning water or electricity, they clapped, waved and cheered for El Chino, a nickname erroneously earned because of his Japanese parentage. "We will vote for you," they cried.

"They see me as their only hope," said Señor Fujimori as we squeezed into a Jeep with several of his armed security guards to rush off to open a school in another, nearby slum.

Learning out of the window to meet the outstretched hands of his supporters, he kept saying: "Look, how much my people love me."

The President, 57, has been touring the country for months inaugurating public works in an effort to

gain votes for his re-election in polls on Sunday. These activities have increased in recent weeks because, although leading in the opinion polls with 42 per cent, he is not assured the outright majority required to avoid a second round.

Peruvian law demands a deciding round if one candidate fails to win more votes than all the others put together. Support for his closest rival, Javier Pérez de Cuellar, the former UN Secretary-General, has been growing and is currently at 21 per cent.

The President is popular among businessmen and the poorer sections of Peru, in part due to adopting

free market reforms. Another reason is his Government's success in stemming the violent campaign waged by Maoist Sendero Luminoso (Shining Path) guerrillas, who have killed 27,000 people in ten years and cost more than \$12.5 billion.

In five years, inflation has been reduced from a ludicrous 8,000 per cent to 10 per cent. What was a bankrupt state has turned into Latin America's fastest growing economy, with 12 per cent growth last year, attracting a flow of foreign investments.

Back on the campaign trail in Arequipa, the President was keen to

show off his achievements. "I've built three schools every day in the last year, countless numbers of hospitals and roads linking southern Peru with Chile. I've got rid of terrorism and although some people say I am dictatorial, I don't care: that's just my style."

But the President's tersely authoritarian style, first revealed when he closed Congress and dismantled the judiciary with the help of the army in April 1992, saying they were "dens of corruption", has received growing criticism. He has also dabbled with the constitution to allow for his re-election, as previously presidents were allowed one

five-year term. Elections replacing Congress in 1993 restored a semblance of democracy but the President has continued to govern by decree, making no secret of the fact that he is close to the military; an army that has been accused of committing thousands of human rights violations.

But while Señor Fujimori's successes seem to have earned him the unconditional loyalty of shanty town communities like those around Arequipa, the President cannot rule out the possibility that Peruvians may demand a more democratic leadership when they go to the polls.

## Tens of thousands 'held in Rwanda torture centres'

BY EVE-ANN PRENTICE, DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT, AND SAM KILEY IN KIGALI

UP TO 50,000 people are being detained in Rwanda, half of them feared to be held in unofficial secret detention centres where torture is commonplace, according to Amnesty International.

Amid the collapse of the judicial system in the wake of the massacres that began a year ago today, not one person has been tried, the human rights group says. "About 24,000 accused of involvement in the 1994 massacres have been detained since July 1994. Most of them face a blanket charge of 'genocide' and none has been brought to trial," Amnesty says in a report issued today after several of its members spent three months in Rwanda.

As many people again are thought to be held in the secret detention centres, makeshift cells in private homes, even latrines and shipping crates, a member of the Amnesty team said yesterday. "One woman was held in a toilet for several weeks; people are kept in holes in the ground," Jo Wells said. The huge number of official and unofficial arrests, and the lack of trials, mean that the innocent are being unjustly held, the guilty are going unpunished, and some relatives of the million victims of last year's genocide are taking the law into their own hands to conduct private vendettas against those whom they suspect of involvement.

Even those held in official prisons are dying because of the appalling conditions, Amnesty says. "In March, for

example, 22 people died from suffocation after a group of more than 70 detainees were crowded into a single cell — designed to hold only ten prisoners — at Muhima Gendarmerie brigade in Kigali."

As the rights group prepared yesterday to publish its report, a sea of men languished in Kigali prison — 7,274 Hutus accused of participating in the slaughter of a million of their Tutsi rivals during the genocide.

The Rwandan Government yesterday postponed the start of genocide show trials planned to start today. But the

six young men scheduled to appear in the dock, when the trials finally start, are far down the hierarchy of former government ministers and intellectuals who planned the massacres. Most of the main players in the slaughter are living as exiles abroad or in refugee camps in Rwanda's neighbouring countries.

The killings started as soon as news that President Habyarimana's aircraft had been shot down at night as it returned from peace talks with the Tutsi-dominated Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF), which drove the Hutu Government from power last year. Between April 6 and the end of June last year, only 100,000 Tutsis were able to avoid being killed by machineguns, grenades, machetes and clubs. The entire country stank of rotting corpses, every water source was jammed with victims of the slaughter, and Lake Victoria was turned into a ghastly reservoir of rotting human flesh.

But the six men who would have stood trial today said they did not see any massacres, other than those perpetrated by the rebel RPF.

Ngomayubiri, 17, who said he had no first name, was arrested when he was allegedly identified as having been part of Rwanda's killing machine by a Tutsi woman who survived. He protested his innocence after he was accused of killing six people, his neighbours, and throwing them into a ditch. He faces the death penalty if convicted.

### Suspects are identified

New York: The international prosecutor investigating last year's genocide in Rwanda said yesterday that he had identified about 400 suspects and planned to issue the first formal charges later this year (James Bone writes).

Richard Goldstone, the former South African judge now serving as prosecutor for the United Nations tribunals set up to try crimes against humanity in Rwanda and the former Yugoslavia, said that some of the suspects were still in Rwanda. However, some of them had already fled to other regions of Africa and to Europe and North America.



Prosecutors Hank Goldberg, left, Marcia Clark and Rockne Harmon listening to evidence in the O.J. Simpson trial

## Prosecution blunders anger O.J. Simpson judge

FROM GILES WHITTELL  
IN LOS ANGELES

JUST when they hoped to impress jurors with pictures of incriminating bloodstains, prosecutors in the O.J. Simpson murder trial have infuriated the judge with procedural blunders and seen one of their key witnesses admit to changing his evidence.

Never in the ten-week-old trial has the prosecution seemed as flat-footed next to Mr Simpson's "dream team" as when Hank Goldberg, a district attorney, apologised on Tuesday for revealing evidence that Judge Lance Ito had ordered should be withheld from the jury. Even more damaging for the

prosecutors was their failure to prevent a wounding attack by the defence on Dennis Fung, a police criminologist and veteran of 500 murder cases, who supervised the collection of blood samples from the scene of the murders of Mr Simpson's former wife, Nicole Brown Simpson, and her friend, Ronald Goldman, last year. The actor, television broadcaster and former football star has pleaded not guilty to the killings.

Mr Fung said at two pre-trial hearings that he had collected most of the blood himself. However, Barry Scheck, for the defence, forced him to admit that a trainee working on her third murder case did most of the work

and that he had given inaccurate evidence under oath. Mr Scheck showed the jury a video of the trainee, Andrea Mazzola, inserting several blood samples into plastic bags without changing her gloves — a practice Mr Fung has called "sloppy".

The prosecution moved into a crucial phase of the trial this week hoping to mislead jurors with the bloody glove found on Mr Simpson's property, and photographs of bloodstains in his Ford Bronco. DNA analysis of the blood links it to Mr Simpson as well as the two victims, Marcia Clark, a district attorney, said in her opening statement. However, the jury also heard Judge Ito's stinging rebuke of

Mr Goldberg, who twice appeared to ignore an instruction not to introduce as evidence an air ticket and luggage tag taken by police from Mr Simpson's home. Ironically, neither side sets much store by the two pieces of evidence. However, Judge Ito told Mr Goldberg: "If I were in your shoes... I would be contemplating how best to salvage my credibility before the court." Mr Goldberg apologised.

The drama in court is failing to keep the attention of the television networks and CBS and ABC have taken down their makeshift studios in "Camp O.J.", the media-infested car park opposite the court building, and are cutting back their trial coverage.

## Major wins credit from flexible friend

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

John Major could barely suppress a smile, almost a smirk, when he listened to President Clinton's praise of his handling of the Northern Ireland peace process at the press conference following their White House talks. Mr Clinton's endorsement was even more than he could have hoped for.

Yet the Prime Minister might have been even more amused if he had known that only three hours later the President was attending a fundraising event at the home of Senator Ted Kennedy, one of the prime movers behind the visit of Gerry Adams to Washington last month.

President Clinton, of course, likes to please those he is addressing at the time. This flexible sincerity is the key to his rise and success.

It also explains why one senior British minister compares him to that arch-manipulator, Harold Wilson. That is

as much a compliment as an insult: Lord Wilson did, after all, win four of the five elections he fought.

Mr Major treated Mr Clinton's praise and pledge of support over the decommissioning of IRA arms with restrained enthusiasm.

Throughout his two-day American trip, Mr Major was careful to play down the more effusive compliments paid to him by his hosts. He fully acknowledged the differences with Mr Clinton last month over Mr Adams's visit to Washington, but argued that the two countries' long-term relationship was sufficiently strong to withstand such strains.

Instead, his emphasis was more businesslike, talking of keeping the relationship in "good and fresh repair" by regular meetings. It was less

an artificial "kiss and make up" stunt than a display of a close working relationship: how much the two countries agree on issues as diverse as Nato enlargement, Russia, Iraq, Iran, free trade and, now, Bosnia, despite earlier disagreements on the former Yugoslavia in 1993.

This is all true. On many of these issues, Britain remains a close and important ally of America in the United Nations, Nato and similar bodies: a country which the State Department wants to keep on its side.

No dramatic changes of policy are likely to follow from Mr Major's visit. It was more a case of taking stock, particularly on Bosnia, Russia and the Middle East, since a summit than a review board. However, Mr Major was keen to

press some fresh British thoughts in some areas — notably over a new look at the international financial institutions, such as the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, to eliminate overlapping work and a pruning of UN agencies.

President Clinton reacted positively to this and the Prime Minister's ideas on taking forward free-trade initiatives.

Also, as he showed in radio interviews broadcast yesterday, Mr Major is interested in strengthening European-US ties by developing the Atlantic community through a broader free-trade area and closer political co-operation. At present these ideas remain nebulous, with little sign of American enthusiasm.

Overall, however, there is a sense that a prime ministerial visit to Washington is no longer a special event. It has received minimal coverage from the American press and

television. But from Mr Major's point of view, the visit was a public relations success. After the White House press conference, a Downing Street official chided a reporter from one of the British tabloids that even he could not write about a snub to Mr Major.

The Prime Minister was able to demonstrate close agreement with American policy-makers on many issues. Mr Major was also able to learn from Newt Gingrich, the Republican House Speaker, about the Contract with America programme of cutting back government.

However, the Prime Minister was reluctant to proclaim a "contract with Britain", as some Conservative Party right-wingers would like.

Mr Major did not look like a Prime Minister on the way out. However, the people of Scotland vote later today.

PETER RIDDELL



John Major and President Clinton outside the Washington restaurant

## Impromptu dinner turns out peachy

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER  
IN WASHINGTON

IN ONE of those carefully planned "spontaneous" gestures of which world leaders are so fond, President Clinton dropped by the fashionable Washington restaurant where John Major was dining on Tuesday night and spent a convivial hour eating peach crumble, drinking coffee and discussing such weighty global issues as basketball, cricket and the President's time at Oxford.

The White House sought to suggest that Mr Clinton had acted on impulse, but that was baloney. British and American officials charged with planning Mr Major's visit had searched hard for an eye-

catching event, like last year's trip to Pittsburgh, to dispel the notion that the two leaders cannot stand each other. They realised that "there's a great deal of cynicism in the British press" and that "warm and fuzzy words" at Tuesday's press conference would not suffice, an administration source acknowledged, so they devised this genial tête-à-tête.

Another idea kicked around was that Mr Clinton should end the \$150 million-a-year (£93 million) war debt payments from Britain to America. That was deemed politically impractical given America's fiscal problems. It was also suggested that the President should attend a British Embassy dinner for the Prime Minister on Monday, but it

clashed with the US college basketball finals featuring Mr Clinton's beloved Arkansas Razorbacks. Ironically, Mr Clinton drove to the restaurant, a personal favourite called Georgia Brown's, straight from a fundraising dinner at the Virginia home of Edward Kennedy, the senator who did more than anybody to persuade the President to embrace Sinn Féin's Gerry Adams.

He and Mr Major sat side by side on a banquet, swapping political and sporting anecdotes.

As the two men left at 10.30pm after what did, indeed, appear to have been a very friendly meeting, the other diners stood and applauded.

## Tehran is calm after day of riots

Thousands of Iranian riot police surrounded Tehran's southwestern suburbs yesterday while hundreds of pro-government demonstrators marched peacefully after violent protests over price rises the previous day (Michael Theodorou writes). Up to 30 people were killed or hurt and hundreds were arrested when security forces, backed by armed helicopters, opened fire on crowds who had set fire to several buildings.

### Kibbutz aid

Jerusalem: After months of wrangling, the Israeli Cabinet approved a 5.9 billion shekel (£1.4 billion) package to rescue the country's 270 kibbutzim that were facing liquidation due to massive debts.

### Surprise poll

Kuala Lumpur: Dapik Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamed, the Malaysian Prime Minister, announced a surprise general election. The poll, likely to be held on April 22, had not been due until October. (Reuters)

### Memory lapse

San Francisco: A federal judge has reversed the conviction of a man jailed for life in California. The conviction was based on his daughter's memory, after a 20-year lapse, of witnessing the murder.

### Killer gas hoard

Tokyo: The cult suspected of releasing deadly sarin in Tokyo's subway last month has hidden 25,000 bags of the gas, a magazine reported. A cult member has been arrested with a box of passports. (AP)

### Lead astray

Jerusalem: Israel's Customs Authority confiscated 18,000 Chinese-made pencil boxes destined for the PLO-run Gaza Strip because their covers label Israel "Palestine" in a map of the Arab world. (AP)



Residents watch as the business centre of the Philippine town of Ipi blazes after the Muslim guerrilla onslaught

## Manila troops told to pursue rebels

FROM REUTER IN IPI, THE PHILIPPINES

AN EXTREMIST group was blamed yesterday for an attack that killed 45 people in the worst violence of the southern Philippine Muslim rebellion for more than 20 years.

President Ramos said that a known commander of the Abu Sayyaf group had led the attack on Ipi, Mindanao island. He identified the man as "Comandante Nerio" and said he may have joined forces with other Muslim rebel groups to launch Tuesday's attack. The aim of the raid, which left Ipi's town centre almost totally destroyed, was to free Nerio's son who was in jail there, the President said, adding that the raiders may also be linked to six suspected Middle Eastern terrorists arrested in Manila last week.

No group has claimed responsibility for the attack and other officials have said they believe that two other rebel groups, the Moro National Liberation Front and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, were also involved.

President Ramos said he had ordered a military assault on the Abu Sayyaf, blamed for a wave of killings and kidnappings in the southern Philippines in the past two years. "I commanded the armed forces... to go all out, utilising land, sea and air assets and to shoot to kill those deemed to be members of the Abu Sayyaf."

The mainly Christian Philippines have been plagued for decades by insurgency among its Muslim minority in the south, with about 50,000 people killed in the 1970s in a period of virtual open warfare.

The Ipi attack was the worst single act of violence since the destruction of the town of Jolo in 1973 in fighting between rebels and troops. Survivors said that about 200 heavily armed men wearing military uniforms and red headbands stormed Ipi by land and sea at lunchtime on Tuesday, firing indiscriminately with assault rifles, grenade launchers and bazookas.

Charred bodies still lay among the rubble of the devastated town centre yesterday morning. Almost nothing was left of the sprawling commercial centre of the town of 150,000 people, apart from blackened, smouldering ruins. Police officers and witnesses said the rebels started fires to cover their withdrawal.

The President said that peace talks with the Moro National Liberation Front would not be affected by the raid.

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## US pressures 'rogue states' of Middle East

Washington: President Clinton is considering banning American companies from buying Iranian oil, while his Secretary of State, Warren Christopher, has accused Iraq of developing a large arsenal of biological weapons (Tom Rhodes writes).

The parallel attack, which

casts both as rogue states of equal threat to regional stability, is an attempt by the Administration to strangle the Iranian economy as the nation attempts to revive its military capability and persuade the United Nations that sanctions against Iraq should remain in place. There has long been a

ban on some trade with Iran but Mr Christopher and Madeleine Albright, the US Ambassador to the UN, have been urging a much tougher stance.

"There is absolutely no room for complacency about Iran's efforts," said Mr Christopher. "Five years ago, too many were willing to give

Saddam Hussein the benefit of the doubt. We must not make the same mistake with Iran."

Mr Clinton said Iraq has never accounted for 17 tonnes of biological cultures that could be used for developing the plague, cholera and tuberculosis.

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A new survey shows the suffering of those who stayed at home in the Second World War

## Women in wartime

WE HAVE all heard it at some point, the classic exchange between someone who lived through the war and a younger person whose complaint about some trauma or deprivation is cut short with a stern, laconic "you don't know how lucky you are". Indeed we don't, we postwar people. Or rather, we have no real grasp of how unlucky they were, of the sheer scale of social dislocation and individual pain they endured between 1939 and 1945, because they have stoically preferred not to talk about it.

It comes as a shock, therefore, to leaf through the 300 pages of wartime statistics and commentary just published by HMSO as *Fighting With Figures* and realise that living in Britain at that time must have been a bit like living in Mao's China.

We have heard so much more about the quarter of the working population who were marched off to fight than about the other three quarters whose lives were turned upside down. Four million mothers

and children were sent out from the cities to the countryside; at one point 80,000 young unmarried women were despatched to till the fields as members of the Women's Land Army while their friends found themselves assembling shelves or aircraft, driving ambulances, doing the sort of work that in 1938 they never could have imagined in places they had never even heard of.

We have been taught to count ourselves lucky that, of the 40 million killed in that war, only 360,000 were British: to the generation that witnessed the devastation of mainland Europe it was unseemly to dwell on the individual tragedies of those who were maimed and made homeless as two in every seven houses were damaged by bombs, and of those whose hopes and expectations were shattered as the crime rate and the number of



MARGOT NORMAN

illegitimate births more than doubled, and the divorce rate climbed by no less than 171 per cent at a time when the divorce laws were framed as a deterrent.

A few novels, like those of Mary Wesley, and a few films and memoirs — the scene in *In Which We Serve* that shows the sailor coming home to find his wife with another man, and the raw emotion in Lord

Hailsham's account of his own similar experience on returning from the war — give an idea of these personal ordeals. But such accounts are remarkably few, when set against the scale of the statistics in this book. Nobody was untouched by destruction, nobody lived the life they had expected. Suddenly it was the husbands, not the wives, who were suing for divorce on grounds of adultery. And how, once not only the wartime-filing lovers but also the women's wartime livelihoods disappeared as the country concentrated on finding jobs for the returning boys, did those ex-wives manage?

Wartime children asked questions that still need answering. Why, asked a boy evacuated to South Wales from London in 1940, were the miners all on strike? Why, wondered the debutantes, had their dancing partners all volunteered

and been killed while the men they found themselves working with in the aircraft factories sat tight until they were called up? And why did the politicians who had run the state in unison fall to squabbling so fiercely the minute the war ended?

Undoubtedly the war gave the class system an overdue and constructive shake-up but to a great extent it settled back into place once the war ended. Marriages and liaisons that were accepted in those dislocated years suddenly became "unsuitable" in their aftermath.

With all those broken communities, broken families and displaced women bringing up children alone in a crime wave, the picture handed down to us of everyone pulling cheerfully together has to be a distorted one. A necessary myth at the time, no doubt, with the core of truth that all myths contain, but one that, after 50 years, we ought to re-examine less in a spirit of zeal for myth shattering than as an exercise of sympathetic questioning of those who have kept quiet all these years.

## Salad days of a perfect girl

Valerie Grove meets an 80-year-old fitness guru who inherited a health and beauty league from her mother

At 17, Prunella Stack was labelled "The Perfect Girl". Her mother, Mary Bagot Stack, had founded the Women's League of Health and Beauty, and brought up her daughter to be a testimony to its disciplines: daily exercises, fresh air, and a regime of soups and salads which all seemed very avant-garde in 1930.

Today at 80 Prunella remains the league's president: straight-backed, elegant, exuding vital wellbeing. Renamed "Health and Beauty Exercise", the league celebrates its sixty-fifth anniversary this Saturday at the Royal Albert Hall.

Prunella was named after the flower, known as selfheal; although its colour (royal purple) is not her favourite, it grows on the Hebridean hillsides where she loves to stride, and as her life story demonstrates, she is a self-healing creature, despite a series of crushing blows.

Just after Prunella was born in India in 1914, her 32-year-old mother watched her officer husband ride off to the trenches, where he died in the first weeks of the war.

As a fatherless only child, Prunella obediently followed her mother's health-and-exercise principles. She was tutored at home in a Holland Park house with high ceilings, except for one rebellious year when she insisted on going to a girls' boarding school.

Her mother died from cancer at 51, when her five-year-old league was expanding internationally. So at 20, Prunella had to take over. "The Perfect Girl" fell in love with tall, handsome, athletic Lord David Douglas-Hamilton, as they climbed in the Alps and the Highlands together. But one day in 1944 he flew off to France and was killed at the controls of his Spitfire, leaving her with two infant sons.

Six years after her first husband's death, Prunella found happiness again with Alfred Albers, a South African surgeon: they began a new life in Cape Town. Eight months later they were climbing together on Table Mountain when he fell 90 feet. She sat beside him as he died.

The loss was terrible. Twice she climbed alone back to the ledge where he had fallen, and placed wild flowers on the little cairn built in his memory. After a few years she returned home to send her boys to her friend Kurt Hahn's school, Gordonstoun. Her mother's league, by 1950 a global organisation (motto: Movement is Life), provided her with busy purpose. She learnt that the way out of grief is: "Look outwards. Forget yourself."

Lieutenant-Colonel Neill, still in the Army, cannot comment, but Major Foster, who retired from the Territorial Army last week after 35 years of military service, smarts at the accusations. He feels his party was abandoned by its race group, who also suffered horribly, and is annoyed that he has been unable to expand on his feelings in his and Lieutenant-Colonel Neill's book *SOS*, published this week. "I feel strongly that if they had stuck together it would have been successful, but they didn't and that's how it is," says Jeanette. "All I'm thankful for is that it hasn't affected him."

Ron, a Jack Sprat to his chubby wife ("I could have done with losing three stone, not him!"), tells me that he feels guilty about the time he has spent on the book and plans to take Jeanette away soon. They went to Scotland in May, but Ron spent much of it skiing. "Oh nothing has changed," says Jeanette.

She feels no bitterness towards her husband. "When he was missing I'd remember all the nice things he'd done for me and I couldn't remember anything nice for him," she giggles. "Have I changed? Not really." She stopped work after Christmas but quickly started again. "I thought, he'll go off again and I'll be sitting at home waiting, getting bored."

She is, she admits, more neurotic than she used to be, but she would never prevent Ron from going again. "How could I? How could you live with a man who's done it all his life? I think we are very lucky, really, when over the years we look around and a lot of friends are not together any more. I can't imagine it any different."

● *SOS* is published by Century today, £16.99



Prunella Stack, aged 80

Her third marriage gives a happy ending to this story. Thirty years ago she married the writer and barrister Brian Power. She explains her serenity thus: "Happiness depends on one's nature. I think I have always been a happy person."

She is still the league's perfect girl. At five foot seven, she weighs eight stone, her hearing quite unimpaired, and she needs no reading glasses. "That's mostly luck," she says. "But I do think the daily exercises help, and although everybody dies now, I have eaten like that all my life. My mother was ages ahead of her time."

She has watched fitness fads come and go. "Aerobics stimulate the heartbeat but don't do much for your inner self, which we think a most important extra dimension," she says. "But of course, all exercise makes your whole self feel better."

After two hip replacements — "something is bound to go," she says, "and the hip is the best thing because the operation is so magical" — she sprang back to fitness, helped by her positive attitude. She is going to spend her eighty-first summer walking in the Pyrenees.

She celebrated her eightieth birthday in Kenya, where her son Iain is an elephant expert. She also travels to Boston to see her other son. The discipline instilled by her mother extends not just to physical activity but to the mind. She writes poems, attending poetry classes at Morley College, and is passionate about learning poetry by heart, fragments shared against one's ruin. When I saw her she had just learnt Yeats's *The Second Coming*, and Hopkins's lovely poem, *Peace*.

"My older son told me it's very important to learn something by heart every day to make your grey cells work — or they depart."

## 'You've had your 15 minutes, so come home'

Julia Llewellyn Smith talks to Jeanette Foster, whose army husband went missing in Borneo

Major Ron Foster and his wife, Jeanette, live in a small house in a cul-de-sac in Tewkesbury, crammed with souvenirs from his travels and photographs of grandchildren. It is as different as possible from the hostile majesty of Mount Kinabalu in Borneo, where Major Foster and four colleagues were trapped in a narrow gully for more than two weeks.

While Major Foster lay in a narrow cave, subsisting on beef granules and Polo mints, Jeanette paced round her poky living room, waiting for the telephone to ring.

While her husband made increasingly futile attempts to scramble up the valley walls, Jeanette would manically vacuum clean, dust and wash up. Borneo's nights were English days: as Major Foster peered at the sky praying for a

helicopter, his wife would be looking at the stars thinking, wherever you are, you must see the same sky. "Well, Ron Foster," she would say aloud. "You've had your 15 minutes, now come home. Don't dare leave me on my own."

It was not as if Jeanette wasn't used to being abandoned. In their 35 years of marriage they moved 21 times, and Major Foster was often away for years. While he spent winters as a ski instructor or was posted for years in

Germany, Aden, Sharjah and Hong Kong, Jeanette stayed at home looking after the children, Kerry and Vaughan, and worked as a receptionist. "You go about your business," she says. "We have a really good relationship, although that probably sounds like a load of old rubbish."

The last remark is typical Jeanette Foster: a bit of sopiness and a hasty rebuttal. She has a no-nonsense style that would be the envy of any army wife. "I always said that if wives whose husbands went missing in Burma during the war could cope, then so could I."

Throughout her husband's disappearance, while the world was declaring he must be dead, Jeanette kept her cool in public. "I was distraught," she says, hands twisting nervously. "But I didn't want to be reduced to a weeping wreck. If I cried in front of friends then it would have been awkward for them."

Instead, she was the one who ended up comforting her visitors. "The word 'if' was banned: it was a question of when Ron was found. I got upset if anybody hinted that it could be otherwise. It makes it sound as if Ron is superhuman. He had been back a few months before I thought, Christ, he could have died."

But the briskness was a veneer. "If I had gone around in the day weeping and wailing, I wouldn't have known how to cope. I did my wailing at night. Suddenly a tear rolls down her cheek, and Jeanette leaps up as if stung. "Sorry," she sobs, rushing into the kitchen for a hanky. "Oh, what a wally I am. But thinking about it is like being back there again."

"My mind would run riot at night. In the day I had a constant stream of visitors but at night I wanted to be me. I did occasionally make a noise. Hey! This is depressing stuff."

After a fortnight, however, Jeanette's front was beginning to crack. "On the Thursday night I talked to myself and said if they are not found by Easter I will go back to work. Then I fell asleep for six hours, which was just unheard of, and in the morning I felt brilliant, totally different. The telephone rang and an army friend of Ron's, surprised at her cheerful tone, said 'You've heard them? They've been found.'"

"I thought I was going to fall to the floor," says Jeanette.

After being reunited in Hong Kong, the Fosters both refused counselling, yet a year later the stress is still bubbling beneath the surface. "Exacerbated by an inquiry into the disastrous expedition in which Ron and his colleague, Lieutenant-Colonel Robert Neill, were both reprimanded for poor leadership."

Lieutenant-Colonel Neill, still in the Army, cannot comment, but Major Foster, who retired from the Territorial Army last week after 35 years of military service, smarts at the accusations. He feels his party was abandoned by its race group, who also suffered horribly, and is annoyed that he has been unable to expand on his feelings in his and Lieutenant-Colonel Neill's book *SOS*, published this week. "I feel strongly that if they had stuck together it would have been successful, but they didn't and that's how it is," says Jeanette. "All I'm thankful for is that it hasn't affected him."

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Major Foster: co-author of a book on the expedition



Jeanette Foster: at night she would look at the stars and think "Wherever you are, you must see the same sky"

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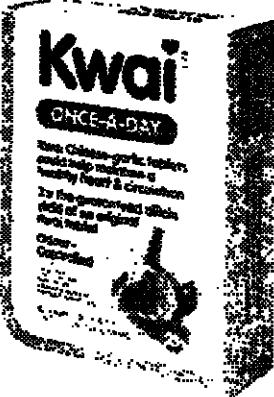
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# Victory over the plague of youth

Next week sees the 40th anniversary of the single most dramatic moment in the history of postwar medicine. On April 12, 1955, Jonas Salk, the head of the Virus Research Laboratory at the University of Pittsburgh, announced at a meeting broadcast by closed-circuit television to 54,000 doctors in 61 cities that trials of the polio vaccine he had been developing, for more than a decade, showed it to be almost 100 per cent effective.

Throughout the United States, the church bells pealed. Celebrated already, Salk was now sanctified. "We love this young man in a white coat, a hero of test-tube magic, a saviour of little children," a contemporary observed. Everyone wanted to shake or kiss his hand, shower him with cash and presents.

In the previous year alone, polio had blighted the lives of 50,000 children in the United States. Every summer for as long as anyone could remember, communities had been haunted by the fear that a polio epidemic would sweep through them, indiscriminately killing the young and healthy, while leaving the survivors with a legacy of wasted limbs and destroyed ambitions. Now that fear had been lifted at last.

The story of the victory over polio has been elegantly described by Tony Gould, himself a victim, in his new book, *A Summer Plague*. Compelling interviews with polio survivors provide an insight into how the disease affected their lives.

The polio virus attacks the anterior horn cells of the spinal cord from which the nerves emerge that control muscular movement. Before

Will polio become the second infectious disease to be wiped out?

Dr James Le Fanu reports

the discovery of the vaccine, treatment was to save life and then rehabilitate.

Polio is a devastating illness involving many muscle groups. It affects the muscles of the chest wall, then breathing becomes increasingly laboured and death soon intervenes. However, if the victim can be kept alive in the early stages, then some power may return, hence the significance of the "iron lung", which, by exerting negative

**'The iron lung clamping my neck was like a hideous straitjacket'**

pressure on the chest, allows air to be drawn into the lungs.

Drawing on his own experience, Gould recounts what it was like: "I felt as though both my legs were clamped to the sheet and the iron lung truly clamping my neck was a hideous form of straitjacket. There were moments when I felt so completely vulnerable that I broke into a cold sweat, when I was so overcome with claustrophobia that my head seemed to burst with the silent screaming of panic. Then I would concentrate on the heavy, monotonous breathing of the machine which caused my chest to heave and subside."

He was struck down by polio while doing National Service with the Gurkhas in Hong Kong, and after a month was flown back to England for physiotherapy and rehabilitation. "When I stood up for the first time in months, holding on to the parallel bars for dear life, I was almost overcome with vertigo," he says.

The trust based in Salk's vaccine and that of his fellow American Albert Sabin, which was licensed four years later, has been entirely justified. In the Western world Gould's experience and that of thousands like him is now a distant memory, and polio is extremely rare.

Indeed, so potent are these vaccines that tomorrow the World Health Organisation (WHO) will announce its intention of making polio the second infectious disease to be eradicated worldwide (smallpox was the first). This might seem an unachievable goal were it not for the extraordinary success of the eradication programme in Central and South America over the past decade.

In 1985, the Pan-American Health Organisation, based in Brazil, launched an intensive vaccination programme centred on twice-yearly National Vaccine Days, in which legions of volunteers went out into the community to vaccinate every child under five. This has been supplemented by "mop-up" operations: when a case of polio is reported, health teams move into the area within 72 hours and go

from house to house vaccinating the children. As a result the immunisation rates leapt from 40 per cent to nearly 90 per cent, and the 1,100 cases of polio reported in South America in 1985 have been reduced to zero — the last being in Peru in September 1991.

There are still an estimated 100,000 new cases of polio every year, almost all of them in sub-Saharan Africa and the Indian sub-continent. Theoretically, drawing on the lesson learnt in South America, the disease could be eradicated from these regions as well, although it is not likely that the WHO's target date of the year 2000 will be met. However, as Andrew Hall, senior lecturer at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, has pointed out in the *BMJ*, it certainly could be. What is required are sufficient funds and the restoration of a minimal health service where it has been destroyed by civil upheaval.

"The science is the least of the challenges," he writes. "The WHO needs to persuade politicians that the eradication of polio is a sensible and realistic target in the face of many competing demands."

● A Summer Plague: Polio and its Survivors, by Tony Gould, is published on April 12 by Yale University Press (£19.95).



Saviour of the little children: Jonas Salk administers the vaccine which he worked on for more than a decade

Strokes and headaches □ Motor neurone disease

## Can a migraine signal danger?

MIGRAINE sufferers find it hard to believe when they are enduring an attack that the trouble could possibly be transitory, and that they may well wake up next day, or in other cases in a day or two, feeling as if nothing had been amiss. The pounding headache accompanied by nausea, vomiting, a dread of light and noise, a disturbed vision with a patchy loss of sight and extremities which are cold, clammy and blue, all seem too awful not to be associated with long-term damage.

Surprisingly, previous statistics have suggested that although there could be a relationship between migraine and stroke, the 10 per cent of the population who have classic migraine, together with another 20 per cent who have severe headache with some migrainous features, tend to live longer than other people. But recently two pieces of research have confirmed the possible links between stroke and migraine.

In Paris doctors have been studying the influence of migraine on the incidence of stroke in young women; and in America, research workers have questioned 22,071 male doctors aged between 40 and 84 about migraine.

The *BMJ* has published the French research. The encouraging news is that all young women with migraine are not at risk of developing a stroke. The bad news is that although the risk is low, there is, judging from these figures, some relationship between migraine in women under 45 and the chance of having a stroke.

In the survey, the French doctors made allowances for other possible causes of



MEDICAL BRIEFING  
Dr Thomas Stuttaford

stroke, but even when these had been discounted, there was an independent increase in the incidence of strokes in migraine sufferers. This risk was greater if the migrainous patient also smoked or took the Pill. The risk is not greatly heightened — a Parisian woman under 45 without migraine has a chance of ten in 100,000 of having a stroke in any one year, if she has migraine this is increased to 19 in 100,000.

The United States study, analysed in the journal *Medical Weekly*, found that American doctors who had migraine had double the risk of suffering a stroke even after these statistics had been adjusted to take account of other risk factors.

Doctors commenting on both trials said that a case can be made for recommending that patients with migraine should make sure that their blood pressure is well-controlled, that they remain slim, don't smoke cigarettes, take regular exercise and if they are a woman, choose a low-dose Pill.

Dr Clifford Rose, director of the London Neurological Centre and founder of the Princess Margaret Migraine Clinic at the Charing Cross Hospital, is more sanguine. "I am concerned in case millions of migraine sufferers are alarmed by this research. Even if there was a risk, it would be a very limited one. It is virtually impossible in a survey of this sort to remove all the possible confounding factors."

Patients with migraine should be reassured by Professor Ethan Waters's research at Southampton University, which showed that they tended to live longer than the rest of the population.

## High hope for drug

THREE people die of motor neurone disease every day. Although as many people in Britain are dying of the disease as they are of Aids, public awareness of the condition was very low until actor David Niven developed it. At about the same time, the Duchess of York became patron of the Motor Neurone Disease Association, after the death of her publisher friend Sir Robert Cooke, MP.

Other famous people who have recently suffered from it include Group Captain Leonard Cheshire, VC, Jill Tweedie the writer, and Don Revie, the football manager. There is a slight increase in the number of recorded cases, which can be accounted for by an ageing population — as more people are now living to an age when they are more likely to develop it.

Each year there is one new case for every 30,000 people. In about 90 per cent of cases there is no evidence of any other relative having had it. Patients live on average for three to five years from the disease onset, but in some cases the disease can develop very rapidly. Jill Tweedie only lived for four months after diagnosis of the illness. In other cases a patient may live for a

much longer time than is predicted: in amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, one of the varieties of the disease, 10 per cent of patients survive for ten years.

In time, the progressive paralysis affects the muscles of breathing and swallowing, and death usually ensues from respiratory failure. One of the most distressing features of the disease is that so far nothing has altered its course. This week Rhône-Poulenc-Rorer announced the result of the trials of a new drug, Riluzole, which confirms a previous smaller study showing that although it does not cure, it does marginally prolong the life of a patient.

The increased lifespan gained in the smaller survey was only about three months. The improved survival times found in the larger trial are to be announced next month. The importance of the new discovery, modest as the benefit is, is that for the first time a treatment has materially affected the pattern of the disease. Mr George Levy, of the Motor Neurone Disease Association, says: "It is encouraging as last to have something which makes a difference. It gives hope that scientists may be on the right track, but how far this track leads nobody, as yet, knows. We look forward to the data being approved so that if it is, Riluzole can be made more generally available."

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## Janet Daley



■ The BBC has less to fear from blathering Tories than from the thuggery on the opposite benches

Forget the democratic process. Politics — or, at least, the freedom to discuss it — is in the hands of the lawyers now. If the decision by the Scottish Court of Session on the BBC's decision to broadcast an interview with the Prime Minister is allowed to stand, the way will be open for any politician or party to seek a legal ban on any programme which it regards as unfair. Interviewing the Prime Minister will not be possible during the run-up to any election, even when the issues to be discussed with him are unrelated to those likely to influence that election's outcome.

Tories bleating about BBC bias have been left standing by the strong-arm tactics of Tony Blair's press secretary, Alastair Campbell. He has triumphantly waved the BBC's own guidelines under its nose, claiming that absolute equality of airtime is required "in the run-up to an election". For the purposes of the Opposition, this is assumed to mean that — so far as broadcasters are concerned — the Prime Minister is nothing more than the head of the party in power.

This wording makes good sense (even if it is a mechanistic and impoverished definition of "impartiality") applied to general elections.

When Parliament is prorogued and the Prime Minister is relegated to being just a leader of one competing political party. There are people with stopwatches at all party headquarters who make it their business to monitor this aspect of coverage in national contests. But in local elections when it is council, not parliamentary, seats that are being fought, the Prime Minister remains the head of the Government with a right (not to say a responsibility) to be questioned in those terms.

Which is to say, he is not running for office. To pretend that this makes no difference — that the sight of the Prime Minister being interrogated about national and international policies would exert an overwhelming and intolerably prejudicial influence on Scottish voters electing their local councillors — is so absurd as to seem disingenuous. Since no one could possibly believe that account of the Opposition's motives, what is really going on here?

With a loftiness that beggared belief, George Robertson crowed over Labour's legal victory, declaring that their action had helped to guarantee the "independence" of the BBC. By which he meant to imply that the broadcasting of this *Panorama* interview was a symptom of the BBC caving in to government pressure. In fact, the decision to go ahead with the *Panorama* programme this week was taken well before the blather-

Labour's recent interference with the BBC was breathtaking

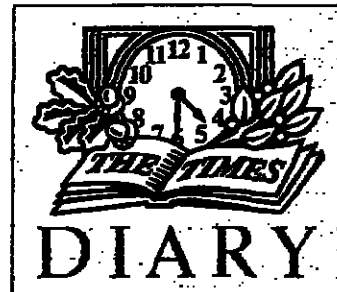
ing of Jonathan Aitken to the effect that the BBC had a left-wing bias. Mr Robertson's comment also assumes that the corporation is living in fear of the Government failing to renew its charter. Does anyone inside the BBC really envisage this craven Government — which seems to perform a *volte face* every time its policies come in for mild criticism — taking on the public opprobrium that would follow a failure to underwrite the future of one of the country's finest public institutions?

If the BBC has little to fear from a toothless Government, it is in real danger from politicians on the other side of the House, whose thuggish behaviour seems determined to prove that they can bully the media at least as effectively as the Tories. The communications which flew back and forth between Tony Blair's office and the BBC over a two-day period at the end of March are a truly breathtaking display in heavy-handed interference with the content of political broadcasting. Alastair Campbell not only threatened court action against the corporation — which is, in itself, an unprecedented interpretation of the notion that the corporation has a "statutory obligation" to be impartial. He went much further.

Taking it upon himself, as he puts it, to "offer a specific solution to the problem (of impartiality) which you face", he suggested that the whole content of the *Panorama* programme be changed. Ruling out of the question the BBC's right to interview the Prime Minister alone, he outlined a quite different format.

He pointed out that "paragraph 3.2 (of the BBC guidelines) states that the voices of the Nationalist parties fighting in Scotland and Wales should be represented in UK coverage". But the "rush of offers from other programmes to Alex Salmond clearly will not be sufficient" to meet the criteria. So he proposed a four-way discussion in which Mr Blair, Mr Ashdown and Mr Salmond would all take part.

Now you may feel that this constitutes a degree of arrogant presumption which goes well beyond the pathetic bleatings about bias which have come from the Tory back benches (egged on, it is widely believed, by the front bench). You may indeed conclude that what Mr Campbell was engaged in was an unblinking attempt to interfere directly in editorial judgment on political coverage. But then Mr Campbell used to be a journalist. Perhaps he simply forgot himself for a moment in his eagerness to offer his professional advice to the BBC current affairs department.



DIARY

At least someone in BT has a sense of humour. The new code for Russia from April 16 will be 007.

## Male order

VIRAGO, the publishing house for women writers founded by Carmen Calil in 1973 with an all-female staff, this week signed up the first of a select group of male authors. Roy Porter, Professor of Medical History at the Wellcome Institute, and an expert on the sexual history and habits of the British, has been contracted to write a book with co-author Sarah Dunant called *The Age of Anxiety*, which will address people's fears as the millennium approaches.

"This will be the first time we will publish a man's views on a subject," explains Lennie Goodings, director at Virago.

## Paranormal

ROMANCE has emerged once again from the battles in Bosnia. Chelsea Renton, daughter of the former Chief Whip Jim Renton, who has been working in camps for Croatian refugees, has become engaged to a British soldier she met in BiH.

She will marry Mark Etherington, a former major in The Parachute Regiment, who is now working for the EU Monitoring Mission. The couple will take their vows in Renton's Mid Sussex constituency at the local Norman church. "Mark is very keen on paragliding," says the MP. "But this is going to be a traditional wedding. We're not going to have any paragliders."

## Out of kilter

LIAM NEESON, star of the film *Rob Roy* which opens tonight in New York, will be cutting a sartorial dash at the premiere. He has commissioned the international fashion designer Donna Karan to make him a kilt of the Ancient Forbes tartan (light green and black) at a cost of £2,000.



Chelsea Renton: no flying

## Novel friend

AFRICA'S lion of a novelist, Wilbur Smith, travelled to Britain the other day on Concord to publicise *The Seventh Scroll*, his new epic. At the launch party in Harrods, he said he sat next to a passenger who spotted him reading one of his own first editions. "I see you're reading Wilbur Smith. Are you a fan?" ventured the traveller.

The great white hunter flared his nostrils like an angry hippo and replied that he was, indeed, a fan. His redoubt companion was encouraged: "I'm a great friend of Wilbur's and I could get you his autograph." Smith declined the offer and returned to his novel.

## Fair cop

THE ONSLAUGHT over cuts to London hospital beds drove Virginia Bottomley to desperate measures yesterday. The Health Secretary swapped the black suit with black and white polka-dot blouse, which she favoured for her morning press

conference, for a softer, green-grey suit with lemon paisley scarf for her enlivened appearance at the dispatch box.

"When dealing with the press, she needed to look authoritative — that's why she chose black and white, like policemen, vicars and nuns," says Liz Baker, an image consultant with Color Me Beautiful. "But the softer colours she picked for the Commons indicate that she was prepared to negotiate and did not feel so threatened."

The row between the Health Secretary and her colleague conceals a deeper divide, says Nicholas Wood

## Old wounds reopened in hospital debate

reputation, it is Redwood who is her chief bete noire.

Those who claim to know them well make no secret of the distaste between the saturnine Fellow of All Souls — and the Cabinet's only PhD — and his senior colleague. On Tuesday night, after Redwood had delivered a speech containing scarcely veiled criticism of Bottomley's plans to take the knife to London's hospitals, the two ministers had a brief and angry exchange in the voting lobbies.

The rift goes back a way. In November 1993, Redwood, who has responsibility for health policy in his Welsh field, trespassed onto the national stage by urging the Health Secretary to turn her attention to "the men in grey suits". This was an act of recantation by the technocratic Redwood — a recognition by him that Margaret Thatcher's market-based health reforms had turned into a batery farm for administrators.

But now Redwood has returned to the fray. On the day that Bottomley

issued a press release confirming her decision to close St Bartholomew's Hospital after nearly 900 years and rob Guy's of most of its patients, Redwood was before the Welsh Grand Committee of the country's MPs, singing the praises of the Mardy Hospital in Merthyr Tydfil, which was opened by Keir Hardie, once the local MP, in 1904.

The health authority had wanted to close its geriatric and psychiatric beds and transfer them to the local district general. Redwood was having none of it. "We still need the small spokes, the smaller hospitals in each town and valley. The local hospital remains a cherished institution."

On the face of it, none of this really adds up. Redwood has supposedly long since lived down his humble origins in 1951 as the son of an accounts clerk and shop manager in Dover. As head of the Downing Street Policy Unit during Thatcher's heyday in the mid-1980s, and with his

well-trained grasp of the balance sheet and the computer printout, he should be the one insisting that expert opinion must have its way.

Far from it. Astonished MPs on the Welsh Grand were treated to the observation that it was a "myth" that it was cheaper to close shabby old hospitals like Mardy and concentrate money, manpower and machinery in the gleaming temples of high-tech medicine. Hospital closures must be based on "health arguments, not financial considerations".

Suddenly, the Vulcan (as the coldly efficient Welsh Secretary has been dubbed) had a human face. Bottomley, meanwhile, hails from a different planet. Only three years older than Redwood, she is the product of generations of unrelenting dog-goodery — the Carnegies and the Easters — who delight in their annual Easter reunion on the Isle of Wight and take much self-satisfaction from their bracing walks across the cliffs.

If anyone ought to be softening the edges of Thatcher's cash-driven

health reforms, it should be the Essex sociology graduate and former psychiatric social worker. Far from it. Bottomley, the most elegant of the Tory women, is acutely conscious of being one of only two women in the Cabinet. Her friends say she is determined to prove she is "no bimbo". With the occasional tactical retreat, she has broadly stuck by the diagnosis of a capital over-provided with beds, doctors and hospitals.

Yesterday, Bottomley was hardly off the airwaves as she struggled to beat off the twin assault from Redwood and Peter Brooke, her former Cabinet colleague, who had accused her of lacking the "moral courage" to come immediately to the House to defend herself.

"Somebody who does my job has got to face decisions, not fudge them," she declared as she sought to justify a package that, late in the day, has appalled Tory MPs already fearful of losing their seats at the next election.

The King's Fund, "independent doctors", the WHO and the OECD had all endorsed the health reforms. "You have to run the health service on evidence, on statistics, not anecdotes," was her riposte.

Bottomley was relying on expert opinion. Redwood, who sometimes looks as if he was beamed down by a committee of the great and the good, knows that even the experts have their limits.

## A future free of income tax

To provide for its ageing population, Britain must shift the burden away from earners and onto spenders



part of the Republican platform for the presidential campaign of 1996.

Strong economic arguments exist for such a change. The classical economic theorists always recognised that taxes cut into savings, and that low-tax countries prospered better than high-tax. David Ricardo, the great economist, stated this classic view in the 1821 edition of his *Principles*: "There are no taxes which have not a tendency to lessen the power to accumulate... if they encroach on capital, they must proportionately diminish that fund by whose extent the productive industry of the country must always be regulated." That ugly chunk of counting-house prose is the true classic doctrine: if you tax income, you reduce savings; reduce savings and you reduce productive investment. Few economists have questioned this logic, and the idea of an expenditure tax has therefore attracted economists of the Left as well as the Right.

The United States has the most dangerous shortage of savings, which largely accounts for the present extraordinary weakness of the dollar. Even Europe has savings levels little more than half those of Asian competitors. World savings are highly dependent on Asia, particularly on Japan, and on private offshore funds, which do not pay national taxes. Nothing contributes more to world prosperity than the work of tax havens in preserving the savings of the rich from the hands of national

abolishing income tax. In technical terms, it would certainly be easier to achieve now than it would have been then. A high and rising proportion of modern expenditure is electronically recorded. There are a number of different ways in which the principle of taxing spending but not taxing saving could be implemented.

Such a change would make it easier to meet the welfare funding crisis of the next century. There will in any case have to be a return to individuals making the primary provision for their own retirement. The State would continue to provide pensions for those who had not been able to save; main finance for retirement would have to be found, as it was everywhere before 1939, out of the lifetime savings of the pensioners themselves. If income tax and all capital taxes were abolished, people would have a new opportunity to save for themselves. At the same time the total welfare burden on public expenditure could be reduced.

The abolition of income and capital taxes sounds like an extreme proposition that may frighten conventionally minded people until shortly before abolition becomes universal. The

advantages however are overwhelming. Abolition would restore freedom to people to plan their own lives; if they valued high savings, they would pay no tax on the money they did not spend. It would remove any temptation to take funds offshore; Britain would become a tax haven for the British, as we already are for foreigners. It would encourage investment — one of the objectives shared by the Government and the Opposition. It would raise actual saving rates, perhaps even to Hong Kong levels. It would reduce inflation, lower interest rates, and strengthen the pound. It would increase the sustainable rate of economic growth. It would help to rebuild a prosperous British middle class with independent financial assets. It would reduce the pressure on the budget for high welfare expenditures. It would even help to solve the problem of short-termism in the City. Private shareholders have always been more loyal with their own money than institutional shareholders are with other people's.

From the political point of view, the great appeal of abolishing income tax would be that it would restore power to the people, away from the State. Income tax may be a tyranny which has by now become only too familiar; but it is a tyranny for all that. Expenditure taxes are progressive — the rich spend more, so they automatically pay more tax. A state duty is inevitably a tax on savings, and is almost always a double tax on money which has paid tax at least once already.

In the information age many people are enjoying a new freedom of choice about their place of work, and therefore about their place of taxation. It has been calculated that more than half of all high earners in the United States could work abroad without loss of income. During the 20th century, the modern State has grossly abused the taxpayer, offering taking, one way or another, between 50 and 80 per cent of a lifetime's earnings. The abolition of income and capital taxes may now be the only way to persuade the taxpayer to remain in residence, to persuade the cow still to give her milk.

Senator Lugar's proposal helps to begin a debate which may last for a generation. In 1979 very few people foresaw that privatisation would start in Britain and be followed worldwide. The abolition of taxes on income and capital may similarly start in one country, may prove extraordinarily popular, and may become almost universal in practice. I hope Britain will be well ahead in the abolition queue, because the destruction of income tax will be one of the conditions of creating national prosperity in the 21st century.

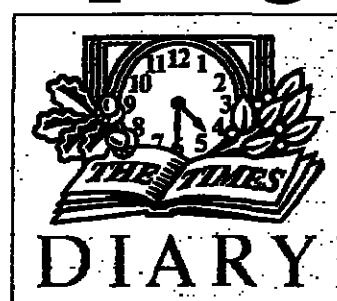
## Safe keeping

THE BOWHILL estate in Selkirk, home of the Duke of Buccleuch, has sold his family's most ancient castle, Kirkhope Tower at Ettrick Bridge. The tower dates back to the 14th century and has been bought for more than £250,000 by a local preservation trust.

The castle has been derelict for decades and has struggled against all manner of ills. Kirkhope was built by members of the clan of Scott and was burnt in the 1550s by soldiers in Henry VIII's army.

The Duke of Buccleuch is Britain's largest individual landowner and head of the clan of Scott — his name is Walter Francis John Montagu Douglas Scott. Yesterday he refused to discuss the sale. But his forebears who built the rough stone tower, which stands some 800 metres high on a hill dominating a valley at Ettrick Bridge, were of bandit stock.

Locals say that Sir David Steel, MP for Tweeddale, Ettrick and Lauderdale, who bought Oakwood Castle from the estate five years ago, had his eyes on Kirkhope Tower as well. But the Kirkhope Castle Preservation Trust beat him



DIARY

At least someone in BT has a sense of humour. The new code for Russia from April 16 will be 007.

## Male order

VIRAGO, the publishing house for women writers founded by Carmen Calil in 1973 with an all-female staff, this week signed up the first of a select group of male authors. Roy Porter, Professor of Medical History at the Wellcome Institute, and an expert on the sexual history and habits of the British, has been contracted to write a book with co-author Sarah Dunant called *The Age of Anxiety*, which will address people's fears as the millennium approaches.

"This will be the first time we will publish a man's views on a subject," explains Lennie Goodings, director at Virago.

## Paranormal

ROMANCE has emerged once again from the battles in Bosnia. Chelsea Renton, daughter of the former Chief Whip Jim Renton, who has been working in camps for Croatian refugees, has become engaged to a British soldier she met in BiH.

She will marry Mark Etherington, a former major in The Parachute Regiment, who is now working for the EU Monitoring Mission. The couple will take their vows in Renton's Mid Sussex constituency at the local Norman church. "Mark is very keen on paragliding," says the MP. "But this is going to be a traditional wedding. We're not going to have any paragliders."

## Out of kilter

LIAM NEESON, star of the film *Rob Roy* which opens tonight in New York, will be cutting a sartorial dash at the premiere. He has commissioned the international fashion designer Donna Karan to make him a kilt of the Ancient Forbes tartan (light green and black) at a cost of £2,000.



Chelsea Renton: no flying

## Novel friend

AFRICA'S lion of a novelist, Wilbur Smith, travelled to Britain the other day on Concord to publicise *The Seventh Scroll*, his new epic. At the launch party in Harrods, he said he sat next to a passenger who spotted him reading one of his own first editions. "I see you're reading Wilbur Smith. Are you a fan?" ventured the traveller.

The great white hunter flared his nostrils like an angry hippo and replied that he was, indeed, a fan. His redoubt companion was encouraged: "I'm a great friend of Wilbur's and I could get you his autograph." Smith declined the offer and returned to his novel.

## Fair cop

THE ONSLAUGHT over cuts to London hospital beds drove Virginia Bottomley to desperate measures yesterday. The Health Secretary swapped the black suit with black and white polka-dot blouse, which she favoured for her morning press

conference, for a softer, green-grey suit with lemon paisley scarf for her enlivened appearance at the dispatch box.

"When dealing with the press, she needed to look authoritative — that's why she chose black and white, like policemen, vicars and nuns," says Liz Baker, an image consultant with Color Me Beautiful. "But the softer colours she picked for the Commons indicate that she was prepared to negotiate and did not feel so threatened."

P.H.S.





## THE OFFICE MANAGERS

Radical policy requires the art of persuasion

Rarely has Virginia Bottomley looked as weak as she did yesterday. Senior Conservatives from the former Cabinet minister Peter Brooke to Sir Rhodes Boyson, attacked the Health Secretary for announcing the closure of St Bartholomew's Hospital in a written Commons reply rather than at the dispatch box. Mr Brooke's claim that Mrs Bottomley lacked "moral courage" and had acted in a way not "wholly worthy of the traditions of our party" doubtless reflected the fact that Bart's is in his constituency. But it was also a warning to the Government from one of its oldest and most discreet hands that it is making a grave strategic mistake.

The precise nature of this mistake deserves careful analysis. Since the publication in 1992 of Sir Bernard Tomlinson's report on healthcare in London, it has been clear that the Government's rationalisation plan for hospitals in the capital is essentially sound. London has too many specialist services and not enough primary care. Waiting lists for routine hospital treatment are long, while specialist beds are often underused. London has twice the national average of single-headed GPs, many of whom want to leave practice in the city. The principle that resources should be shifted from specialist into primary services cannot be faulted.

Mrs Bottomley's failure has been political. Change which disrupts robust tradition needs careful salesmanship, particularly when it leads to the closure of an ancient institution such as Bart's. Yet the Health Secretary has failed to persuade the public that what she is doing is right. She erodes confidence without making others share her feelings. She has become a health-service manager first, a Cabinet Minister second—a perilous order of priority in so sensitive an area of policy.

At the same time yesterday, Michael Howard was humbled by a House of Lords

ruling that he had acted wrongly by introducing a new criminal injuries compensation system without parliamentary approval. The timing was as much bad luck as bad judgment—particularly bad luck for the Prime Minister, whose reception in London was far hotter than that in Washington had been. The impression remains, however, of a government whose ministers are much exercised by administration, less concerned with larger issues.

In a democracy, radicalism must always be matched by an understanding of ordinary people's conservative anxieties. "People will not look forward to posterity," wrote Burke, "who never look backward to their ancestors." In less than half a century, the NHS has become a national institution. St Bartholomew's has an almost mystical significance for many Londoners. That does not mean that either service or hospital should be exempt from change or that prospective reformers must curtail their ambitions. It does mean that change must be presented persuasively and address concerns which are nothing to do with resources, efficiency or organisation.

Peter Lilley, one of the most radical members of the Cabinet, has shown a keen awareness of these complexities in his reform of the social security system. Icons and taboos are there to be questioned; but the questioning must be deft and matched by careful consultation of those who will be affected. Mrs Bottomley should have realised that the closure of Bart's required a Commons statement as a mark of respect to the strength of feeling it has inspired. To slip the announcement out as she did suggested that she half-believed it was wrong. Radicals must have the courage of their convictions and the willingness to explain them to others. To do otherwise is to surrender claim both to office and to power.

## THE KIEV LINCHPIN

Ukraine moves on: the EU should think beyond Chernobyl

In most countries, a parliamentary vote of no confidence in the Government would count as a crisis. In Ukraine, it counts as opportunity. No fairer political wind could have been given to the programme of economic reform announced this week by Leonid Kuchma, the country's President, than the 292-15 majority in favour of dismissing the Government that immediately preceded his landmark address.

In keeping with the looking-glass character of Ukrainian politics, Mr Kuchma owed this breakthrough to the fractious majority in the parliament which opposes the reforms he has already introduced. Reformers, seeing their opportunity, sided with the Opposition. Mr Kuchma had already sacked Vitali Masol, an opponent of reform, as Prime Minister; the vote enables him to get rid of the remaining diehards in his Cabinet and pick a team wholly in tune with his radical economic policies.

To the admiration and surprise of Westerners, Russians and increasing numbers of his own countrymen, Mr Kuchma has proved the kind of tough leader who is also a master of manoeuvre: he thrives on such Ukrainian paradoxes. When he was elected nine months ago, his Communist supporters expected him to revive the command economy; his Crimean supporters saw in him a champion of reunification with Russia; his opponents included 90 per cent of western Ukraine's nationalists. He has won broad support by confounding the expectations of all three groups.

Ukraine, described by Warren Christopher last week as "the linchpin of European security", is no longer the danger that it was a year ago. Mr Kuchma has won over Ukraine's nationalists by his firm suppression of militant separatism in Crimea: the region retains a certain degree of autonomy, but its "independence" constitution was annulled by Kiev last month. This, however, was politically possible only because Mr Kuchma has carefully cultivated

ted Moscow. The dangerous confrontation over the Black Sea Fleet is close to resolution, and only Boris Yeltsin's repeated delay in visiting Kiev stands in the way of the formal signature of a friendship treaty.

Mr Kuchma has also earned the West's political support. He has pushed ratification of the nuclear non-proliferation treaty through parliament and stuck firmly to the timetable for transferring Ukraine's nuclear stockpile to Russia. Yesterday, Ukraine finally dropped its objections to the terms of the Conventional Forces in Europe Treaty dealing with arms reductions.

He now needs the West's financial as well as political backing for his drive towards "a qualitatively new economic system". As he told the parliament this week, Mr Kuchma sees Ukraine's economic rebirth as "the overall unifying national idea". He is probably right, but only if ordinary Ukrainians start before long to feel the benefits of the "big bang" strategy for which—provided parliament passes the President's tough 1995 budget—he has obtained \$1.8 billion of IMF backing.

The plan calls for the privatisation of around 8,000 enterprises, bankruptcy laws, an independent central bank and land reforms coupled with cuts in agricultural subsidies. Mr Kuchma bravely insists that to give in to "populist" arguments and political interests will kill Ukraine's chances of economic stabilisation. But he has promised carefully targeted support for the groups hardest-hit by reforms. That is necessary for social peace, but it means that on top of the IMF package, Ukraine needs around \$900 million in Western aid.

America is keen to help, but the European Union—whose is obsessed by getting Ukraine to close down Chernobyl—has been grudging. In London and Paris, ministers should ponder Mr Christopher's words. Ukraine's stability depends on Mr Kuchma's ability to demonstrate that political courage pays.

## TRUST FOR THE TORTOISE

Britain's naturalists speak up for the Galapagos

A fierce fire, as dogged as it was deadly, raged on the Galapagos islands a year ago. Darwin's distant archipelago was aflame, threatening the habitat of his courtrooms and sweet-tongued tortoises. Yesterday, in a well-timed response, prominent British naturalists—including David Bellamy and Sir David Attenborough—gathered to set in motion the Galapagos Conservation Trust, dedicated to the protection of this unique shrine to our scientific temper.

Charles Darwin, who shook Victorian England more deeply than any other thinker, was the biological rationalist who changed forever man's perspective of himself and of his origins: the leavening he brought to our sense of the divine survives till today as perhaps the foremost example of intellectual liberation from tradition steeped in Genesis.

Darwin was born into "Jane Austen's England", as Janet Browne writes in her forthcoming biography, *Charles Darwin: Voyaging*, and his family "could have stepped straight out of the pages of *Emma*". Years later, driven by his insatiable instincts and an eloquent curiosity, he journeyed to the Galapagos islands. There, he came upon his laboratory, and wrote that "these islands appear paradises for the whole family of

Reptiles". The black lava rocks on the beach were frequented by "imps of darkness"—clumsy lizards as black as the porous rocks over which they crawl.

Our poetry today is reserved almost exclusively for the giant tortoise, whose docility is explained both by his lumbering bulk as well as by an artless unfamiliarity with predators. The unwieldy creature is united in its inherited guilelessness with an array of birds and animals: dragon-like iguanas, blue-footed boobies, 13 kinds of finches and dazzlingly playful sea-lions. But their world is now threatened—and has been so for many years—by man, tourist and settler alike.

The aim of the Galapagos Conservation Trust is to ensure that we do not squander the wealth of this insular treasure trove: to this end, it will have to work in tandem with the local administration. It is not easy to reconcile the preservation of a fragile environment with the needs of local people to make a living, and the understandable desire of Ecuador's politicians to exploit the islands' tourist potential. The Trust, we must hope, will find a sensitive ally in the Government that has control over this unique landmark in the world's intellectual history.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

### Tax cuts and economic growth

From Mr Jonathan Aitken, Chief Secretary to the Treasury

Sir, Gordon Brown's article, "We need investment, not hollow tax cuts" (April 5), illustrates two fundamental fallacies that typify Labour thinking. First, that UK investment performance lags seriously behind that of our competitors; secondly, that tax cuts are incompatible with investment. Mr Brown is wrong on both counts.

Since 1980, business investment in the UK has on average accounted for a broadly similar proportion of GDP to that in other G7 countries. Moreover, total fixed investment since 1980 has grown faster in the UK than in any other major European country and that gross has almost matched that of the US and Canada. This is in stark contrast with the 1970s, when the UK was firmly at the bottom of the G7 investment growth league.

Mr Brown also distorts the reality of the present recovery. Total investment in plant and machinery has risen by 7 per cent over the past year, and in manufacturing it has risen by 10 per cent.

These figures demonstrate that British industry is investing strongly, as it judges necessary, now that corporate balance sheets have been restored to health. Business investment—not least inward investment from overseas—is being encouraged by the lowest main corporation tax rate in Europe.

Mr Brown has underestimated our national investment in education and training. A record 73 per cent of 16-year-olds are now in full-time education, compared with 42 per cent in 1980; the proportion of young people entering higher education has risen from one in eight in 1979 to about one in three today; and the proportion of 17-year-olds achieving two or more A levels has doubled to 28 per cent.

In 1995-96 the Government will offer 1½ million places on employment and training programmes to help the jobless. Furthermore, after the last Budget, more adults will find jobs through reformed training-for-work schemes and the number of young people achieving qualifications at NVQ (national vocational qualification) level 3 and above will more than double by 1997-98.

These facts suggest that Mr Brown's gloomy assertions are not supported by the evidence. The British economy is now moving ahead steadily across a broad and virtuous front of low inflation, record exports, rising investment, falling unemployment and steady growth.

Tax cuts, when they come, will be prudent and will benefit rather than harm investment and growth. But who would place a bet that they will

ever feature on Mr Brown's interventionist agenda?

Yours sincerely,  
JONATHAN AITKEN,  
Treasury Chambers,  
Parliament Street, SW1  
April 5.

From Mr Maurice Fitzpatrick

Sir, Recent reports suggest that the Government may be planning a phased reduction in the basic rate of income tax, from its current level of 25p in the £1 to 20p by tax year 1998-99. It has been suggested that this would involve a cut of 1p in 1996-97, 2p in 1997-98 and a final 2p cut in 1998-99.

Whilst I would not wish to comment on what action Government should take on taxes, readers may find the following figures helpful to put the issue in context.

The cost of the tax reductions mentioned above would be around £18 billion for the three years 1996-97 to 1998-99, and £10 billion per annum thereafter.

According to the November 29, 1994, Budget Red Book the Government is already proposing to incur further borrowings of £19 billion in the years 1996-97 to 1998-99. The £18 billion cost of the proposed tax cuts has not been taken into account.

Given sufficient political will, any Government can of course cut taxes. But in this case, it appears that the Government will have to borrow the money to do so.

Yours faithfully,  
M. C. FITZPATRICK  
(Senior Tax Consultant),  
Chantry Valley,  
Russell Square House,  
10-12 Russell Square, WC1  
April 4.

From Mrs Jean Richardson

Sir, Why does the Government persist in its belief that the juiciest carrot to offer the electorate is reduced taxation?

Most of the unemployed would welcome the opportunity to pay tax at all; the majority of wage-earners would, I believe, accept a small increase in taxation in return for improved public services, especially in education and the NHS; and many of the elderly retired would be prepared to make some adjustments in their budgeting in order to restore the home-help service.

Perhaps the "feel-good" factor has to be paid for.

Yours faithfully,  
JEAN RICHARDSON,  
Benisons,  
38 Kings Road,  
Barnet, Hertfordshire  
April 4.

### Execution in Georgia

From Mr Anthony Verdun

Sir, Mr Major may have thought deeply about the plight of Mrs Ingram, whose son awaits his impending execution in Georgia (report, April 4), but perhaps he has not thought deeply enough.

On November 2, 1993, a specially constituted seven-member judicial committee of the Privy Council—comprised of Lords Griffiths, Lane, Ackner, Goff, Lowry, Slynn and Woolf—considered delays in execution in Jamaica (*Earl Pratt and Another v The Attorney General of Jamaica and Another* [1993] 3 WLR 955; Times law report, November 4, 1993).

Two points that were made then

seem particularly pertinent here: firstly, that there were "strong grounds for believing" that any delay of more than five years after sentence constitutes "inhuman and degrading punishment" (the delay for Mr Ingram is 12 years), and if such delay is attributable to the appellant system then it is the system that is at fault and not the prisoner for using it.

Since our highest judges have commented upon the evil of delays (if not yet the evil of execution) then why can't our Prime Minister pass their erudition on? Perhaps he should save his regrets for things it is too late to put right.

Yours faithfully,  
ANTHONY VERDUN,  
Priory Chambers, 2 Fountain Court,  
Steelhouse Lane, Birmingham, 4.

### Words perfect

From Mr Derek Coupland

Sir, When is a scrap metal dealer not a scrap metal dealer (letters, March 20, 24, 28, 31, April 3)? Read on. For the purposes of this Act a person carries on business as a scrap metal dealer if he carries on a business which consists wholly or partly of buying and selling scrap metal, whether the scrap metal sold is in the form in which it was bought or otherwise, other than a business in the course of which scrap metal is not bought except as materials for the manufacture of other articles and is not sold except as a by-product of such manufacture or as surplus materials bought but not required for such manufacture and "scrap metal dealer" (where the expression is used in this Act otherwise than in reference to carrying on business as a scrap metal dealer) means a person who in accordance with the preceding provisions of this sub-section carries on business as a scrap metal dealer.

The above is the interpretation clause in the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 1964. Try explaining it to a council committee.

Yours faithfully,  
W. D. COUPLAND,  
5a Holbeck Road,  
Scarborough, North Yorkshire.

From the Director-General of the Historic Houses Association

Sir, If you are looking for elegance and pithiness in the tax legislation, how about the following from section 1 of the Capital Transfer Tax Act of 1984: "Capital Transfer Tax shall be charged on the value transferred by a chargeable transfer?"

Yours faithfully,  
TERRY EMPSON,  
Director-General,  
Historic Houses Association,  
2 Chester Street, SW1  
April 4.

### Promotions at Oxford

From Professor Averil Cameron, FBA, Warden of Keble College, Oxford

Sir, I must take issue with the article by my friend the Master of Pembroke College ("The end of Oxford as we know it", April 1) and its somewhat alarmist message as to the future of undergraduate teaching at Oxford.

The promotions proposal recently passed was specifically designed so that it would cause the least possible threat to undergraduate teaching. As a proposal it is far from ideal (and the proportion of 80 per cent of university teachers likely to achieve the grades of reader or professor is no more than a highly unlikely figure plucked from the air).

Yet at present Oxford has virtually no promotions policy whatever. As

### Lottery benefits

From Lieutenant-Colonel F. R. Howell

Sir, Our local "Lifboat Saturday" last week saw another volunteer collector and me sharing our post outside the high street newsagent and sub-post office expecting, as usual, our "takings" to be mainly dependent on the weather.

Not a bit of it. We had forgotten about the National Lottery terminal now in the shop. As the day wore on more and more people arrived to buy their tickets and some of them, while waiting in the long queue, noticed us and made a contribution.

So the National Lottery can help as well as hinder charity. We collected about 10 per cent more than usual this year.

Yours sincerely,  
RAY HOWELL,  
New Mile House, Ascot, Berkshire  
April 1.

### Threat to textbooks for Third World

From the President, Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene

Sir, The nation's leaders (and others) are attempting to achieve a higher profile for Britain, especially in the developing world ("Britain in the World" conference—reports, March 30).

Subsidised distribution of British textbooks, in several major academic disciplines, to many of the world's developing countries has operated for some 35 years under the Educational Low-priced Books Scheme (ELBS). The scheme currently costs £1.5 million a year, from the Overseas Development Administration (ODA) budget.

It has recently come to my attention that Baroness Chalker, as a result of reading a recent ODA internal report, proposes to wind up this excellent scheme within the next two years.

Expert advisers have not been consulted. This decision seems to relate in part at least to the fact that targeting of books has not been entirely towards the poorest students in the poorest countries (for example, medical personnel in India are not considered ad-worthy); therefore, the scheme is perceived not to meet the ODA's underlying objectives.

### 'English' English

From Dr Roger Bowers

Sir, Professor Haseler (letter, March 29) perpetuates the myth of a clash between, in the red corner, American English and American culture; and, in the green, "English English" and British culture. But for the majority of users of English around the world, it is not like that.

English is learned not because it is laden with either culture but because it is the language of access (to commerce, technology, research, etc) and of advancement (to a job, a better job, a professional position). By and large people will learn English by whatever means and in whatever form they can get it. Overwhelmingly the forms they will hear through the satellite media are American, but that is by no means

### Russian view of 'Ring'

From Professor Emeritus Edward Garden

Sir, As a Tchaikovsky scholar, I think that, before totally condemning Richard Jones's production of *Stegfried at Covent Garden*, your reviewer (March 29) and Sir Hardy Amies (letter, April 3) should read the Russian composer's withering comments on the production both of the first performance of the complete *Ring* at Bayreuth in 1876, and of subsequent performances.

In particular, in his correspondence with Nadezhda von Meck he states

### 'Loopy' lairds

From the Macneil of Barra

Sir, I am in wholehearted agreement with Magnus Linklater ("The loopy lairds of the Isles", March 30) that what the Hebrides needs is "consistency of ownership, and an appreciation of the fragile nature of an island economy", and a recognition that the Hebrideans, not outsiders, virtually always know what is best for them and their islands.

Mr Linklater's paragraph on myself could have given the impression that I had arrived only recently from America to claim my inheritance. But

long ago as 1907 Lord Curzon, as Chancellor, saw the awkward dichotomy between college tutors and university professors, but was unable to bring about reform.

Every other university in the UK is now aiming at excellence in both teaching and research, and Oxford can be no exception. The Master of Pembroke believes that Oxford cannot compete with the great American and continental universities. Of course it can, and it already does.

But there is no reason why it must also adopt their modes of teaching for first degrees, and that is far from being the necessary consequence of this rather modest proposal.

Yours faithfully,  
AVERIL CAMERON,  
Warden, Keble College, Oxford  
April 1.

### 'Panorama' affair

From Mr Richard Ayre

Sir, The omission of one crucial detail from Andrew Pierce's seemingly informed account of my role in the *Panorama* affair (report, April 5) casts some doubt on the quality of his research. Throughout the period he refers to I was incommunicado touring the remains of the Mayan civilisation on the Yucatan peninsula. While these bear a passing resemblance to Broadcasting House they are some distance apart.

Yours faithfully,  
RICHARD AYRE  
(Controller, Editorial Policy),  
British Broadcasting Corporation,  
Broadcasting House, W1  
April 5.

### Old acquaintance

From Mr Philip Watts

Sir, I have before me the group photograph taken in July 1942 of some 700-800 pupils and staff of Bristol Grammar School including my 11-year-old self.

Absent on war service at the time was my French teacher and your correspondent Mr Eric Deln, whose letter which you published on April 19 last year led to a renewal of our acquaintance after a gap of 43½ years (letters, March 31, April 5).

Notwithstanding the scant contact between myself and other progeny of my *alma mater* in the interval, I can still instantaneously link about 180 names to faces. Is this a matter for self-congratulation or rather, as I suspect, a symptom of approaching senility?

Yours sincerely,  
PHILIP WATTS,  
69 Broadway, Lincoln.

From Mrs Rosemary ap Rees

Sir, The day after you published a letter from my husband in February he received a letter from an old friend he had not seen since 1955, after a Jesus College cricket tour in Sussex. The following day brought another letter which he passed on to me as it was from my half-brother, last seen in 1961, with whom we had long lost touch. It has been delightful to meet again after all these years and we all vow to keep in contact in future.

A few weeks later another letter arrived from Belorussia, Minsk in particular, from a Mr Smirnov, asking my husband to clarify the meaning of our surname.

Yours sincerely,  
ROSEMARY ap REES,  
Cranhill House, Piers Road,  
West Crammore, Somerset  
April 3.







## OBITUARIES

## LIEUTENANT-COLONEL SIR VIVIAN DUNN

Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Vivian Dunn, KCVO, OBE, Principal Director of Music, Royal Marines, died on April 3 aged 86. He was born in Jubbalpur in India on December 24, 1908.

THE first Director of Music of the Royal Marines to be created KCVO, Vivian Dunn had a strong vocation for military music. This had run in successive generations in his family for more than a century; his grandfather was Sergeant Thomas Dunn, Band Sergeant of the 1st Battalion, 33rd (West Riding) Regiment of Foot while his father was Captain W.J. Dunn, Director of Music of the Royal Horse Guards. His mother Beatrice was also a fine musician, playing the piano, harp and organ.

Despite his military vocation, Dunn's musical career was well developed in civilian life before he enlisted in the Royal Marines.

Francis Vivian Dunn was educated at Peter Symonds College, Winchester; the Konservatorium der Musik, Cologne; and the Royal Academy of Music, London. He was afterwards selected in 1927 by Sir Henry Wood to play in his Queen's Hall Promenade Orchestra.

In 1930 he became a founder member of the first violin section of the BBC Symphony Orchestra under the baton of Adrian Boult. The next year he joined the Royal Marines and the Portsmouth Divisional Band as its director of music at the very young age of 22.

He was soon acknowledged as an accomplished composer and arranger. In 1934 the Royal Marines did not have an official slow march and five directors of music were invited to submit compositions. Dunn's arrangement of the English air *Early One Morning* under the title *Globe and Laurel* (the cap badge of the Royal Marines) was selected and this tune remained the regimental slow march until 1964. In that year Earl Mountbatten presented the *Probratsky March* to the Corps and



Dunn's arrangement of this tune is used to this day.

With the Portsmouth Divisional Band he embarked in the Royal Yacht *Victoria and Albert* on numerous occasions during the reigns of King George V, King Edward VIII and King George VI, a connection with the Royal Family that was to be continued after the war. During the Second World War his fluent German caused him to be engaged in cipher and intelligence work.

Dunn accompanied the royal tour of South Africa in 1947 in the battleship *Vanguard* and that of Commonwealth countries in 1953 in the *SS Godtha*. He also made several voyages in the Royal Yacht *Britannia*, which was completed in 1954 primarily as a hospital ship, and replaced the *Victoria and Albert*; that

supremely elegant vessel (built in 1899), with its truly yacht-like lines and graceful clipper bow, had by that time become unseaworthy and was "retired" after a somewhat anticlimactic wartime career as a gunnery training ship.

Promoted major in 1946, he became the first Principal Director of Music of the newly amalgamated Royal Marine Band Service. In June 1950 he designed the first large-scale presentation of Beating Retreat by the massed bands of the Royal Marines on Horse Guards Parade, an event which continues to this day in honour of the Duke of Edinburgh's birthday. Between 1949 and 1959 Dunn led a number of highly successful band tours to the United States and Canada.

As Principal Director, his main

compositions included the music for the film *Cockleshell Heroes*, the quick marches *The Captain General*, *Soldiers of the Sea* and *Commando Patrol* and an arrangement of the Boer song *Sarie Marais* which is now the march of the Royal Marine Commandos. His many recordings of military music have been vastly popular at home and overseas and he won an EMI Golden Disc Award in 1969.

For 15 years head of the Royal Marines Band Service, he ensured through his lively energy that the bands would prosper. He was particularly insistent that Royal Marine musicians should see themselves as Marines first and musicians second and that they should be proficient in their operational roles. Non-commissioned and commissioned officers in



## CANON PETER PENWARDEN

Canon Peter Penwarden, former Vice-Provost of Southwark, died on March 24 aged 73. He was born on April 10, 1921.

THERE are three major churches in London where the Archbishops of Canterbury consecrate new bishops from time to time: St Paul's, Westminster Abbey and Southwark Cathedral. Southwark is the smallest and least well-known — "hidden away low down amidst the homes of poverty and the warehouses of modern commerce," as a former bishop once wrote — but it has become particularly appreciated for such services in recent years. Part of the reason for this popularity derives from the gifted ministry of Canon Peter Penwarden as Vice-Provost for more than 20 years from 1971.

He grew up in Essex, spent three years at Keble College, Oxford, at the beginning of the war, and then went to Lincoln Theological College in 1942. Here he came under the influence of Eric Abbott, later Dean of Westminster, and this showed clearly in his subsequent ministry. He was ordained to a curacy in Eltham in 1944, and later became vicar of All Saints, Wimbledon, and then of Benilton. His move to Southwark Cathedral owed something to Bishop Mervyn Stockwood, who recognised that his ability to order wor-

ship well was particularly needed in the new team being formed under the leadership of the Provost, Harold Frankham. He brought also the wise experience of a good parish priest and the gift of clear and thoughtful preaching and speaking.

Penwarden served under two very different Provosts — David Edwards, who succeeded Frankham, being essentially a scholar and writer. Both found him a marvellously loyal and sensitive colleague, with a delightful sense of humour and the willingness to work hard and with meticulous care. He was determined that the worship of the cathedral should be the best that could be offered. To him, as much as to anyone, the Church of England owed a particular debt for showing how the modern services of the Alternative Service Book could be presented in a dignified and powerful way. Here was someone who understood that tradition need not be rigid or fixed, and his easy co-operation with a succession of fine directors of music was another tribute to his work.

In private life he shared his home for many years with his mother, and with his sister Margaret. Here he relaxed with detective novels, and with generous hospitality among friends and neighbours. Recently he and his sister, who survives him, retired to Salisbury.

## PAUL HORGAN

Paul Horgan, prize-winning American novelist and historian, died in Middletown, Connecticut, on March 8 aged 91. He was born in Buffalo, New York, on August 1, 1903.

CRITICS found it difficult to typecast Paul Horgan: he was too versatile. In the course of a writing career that spanned six decades he produced novels, historical epics, volumes of short stories, poetry, essays, biographies and children's books. On average, Horgan published a new book every 18 months. In his spare time he was a voracious reader, indulged in music and painting, and became fluent in several European languages.

It may have been this very versatility, coupled with a style often regarded as traditional and old-fashioned in its painstaking characterisation, that kept critical enthusiasm for his work muted. Yet David McCullough, reviewing his book *The Heroic Triad* for *The New York Times* in 1989, wrote of Horgan: "With the exception of Wallace Stegner, no living American has so distinguished himself in both fiction and history. The difference is his luminous imagination."

The second of three children born to a middle-class Roman Catholic family, Paul George Vincent O'Shaughnessy Horgan was taken to New Mexico at the age of 12 when his father contracted tuberculosis and fell in love with the American South West. It was to form the setting of most of his books, including his two Pulitzer prizewinners: *Great River: The Rio Grande in American History* (1955) and *Lamy of Santa Fe* (1975). The latter was a biography of Archbishop Juan Bautista Lamy, an anti-slavery preacher, an Indian cleric who went to New Mexico after it had been taken from Mexico by the United States.

Although he never went to university, having left high school to work on the local newspaper in Albuquerque, Horgan later taught at Yale, the University of Iowa and Wesleyan University, where he was director of the Centre of Advanced Studies. He was also awarded nearly 50 honorary degrees.

His experiences at Eastman formed the basis of his first published novel in 1933, entitled *The Fault of Angels*.

In 1936 Horgan had returned to his old school, the New Mexico Military Institute, in the post of librarian. He remained there, writing a



spate of novels, until the Second World War when he became chief of Army Information with the US War Department and reached the rank of lieutenant-colonel. The war, however, did little to slow him down. Before it ended he had published another novel, had a play performed in New York, and had written the libretto for Ernest Bacon's American folk opera *A Tree on the Plains*.

With demobilisation, Horgan became a full-time writer. Among his best-known and most popular works were the novels *A Distant Trumpet* (1960), *Whitewater* (1970) and *The Thin Mountain Air* (1977). He also wrote a highly praised biography of Igor Stravinsky (1972).

A lifelong bachelor, Paul Horgan leaves no survivors.

## DAVID HEAP

David Heap, Headmaster of King Edward VII School, Lytham, 1982-93, died from pancreatic cancer on February 23 aged 53. He was born on March 14, 1941.

AT THE early age of 33 David Heap moved to the headship of Handsworth Grammar School, Birmingham, at a crucial stage in its history. He made it his first priority to offer educational opportunities to clever boys from the inner city and ethnic minority groups. At Lytham he was equally keen that the Assisted Places scheme should be used for the benefit of boys from modest backgrounds.

Educated at Heversham Grammar School, Cumbria, he went on to a distinguished career at Cambridge. A scholar of St Catharine's College, he gained a first in both parts of the History Tripos and was awarded the Figgis Memorial Prize.

From Cambridge, he took his first teaching job at Ermysted's Grammar School, Skipton. After a brief spell as a university lecturer in Australia he returned to England and became head of history at William Hulme's Grammar School, Manchester.

From there he moved in 1974 to the headship of Handsworth Grammar School, leaving there in 1982 to become headmaster of King Edward VII

School, Lytham. As a headmaster he had a genuine interest in all his pupils, teaching them from an early age, following their careers through, writing all their higher education references himself and urging the best to seek scholarships or places at Oxford and Cambridge.

At Lytham he oversaw several major building projects and brought in a specialist from Old Trafford to advise on arguably now the best school cricket squares in northern England.

He was a private individual, unassuming and modest about his achievements. His great love was cycling. He had been president of the Cambridge University Cycling

Club and was a founder member of the Kendal Potholing Club. He published *Potholing: Beneath the Northern Pennines* in 1964 and, with the support of the Royal Geographical Society and a Winston Churchill fellowship, led several expeditions in Arctic Norway where he discovered and mapped over twenty miles of caves.

He fought a brave battle against cancer and it was a measure of his physical and mentally tough constitution that, after two operations, he should have undertaken a round-the-world trip via Malaysia and Australia, and returned tired yet unscathed. He was unmarried and leaves no surviving relatives.

## JUSTICE ANWARUL HAQ



Anwarul Haq, former Chief Justice of Pakistan, died in Lahore on March 3 aged 77. He was born in the North-West Frontier Province on May 11, 1917.

AS BOTH Chief Justice of Lahore High Court and Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Pakistan, Anwarul Haq had the unenviable task of presiding over former Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto's 1979 appeal against the death sentence that had been passed on him. The court was split four-to-three, but the Chief Justice, who personally delivered the 2,000-page judgment, sided with the majority and, thus, has to bear some measure of responsibility for the final grisly circumstances of Bhutto's execution. It was, however, the one controversial incident in what otherwise had been a career of high distinction.

Anwarul Haq was educated at the Government High School, Jullundur, and graduated from DAV College there in 1936. He then went to University College, Oxford, for a year before passing by competitive examination into the old Indian Civil Service, which he joined in 1939. Since the war dislocated the normal ICS selection processes, he was one of the last Indians to be recruited to the service of the Raj.

He did not lend his support to the one of his judicial colleagues who defiantly declared that the court had intended to urge clemency upon General Zia when giving its reasons for itself being unable to entertain Bhutto's petition. Yet, given General Zia's determination to get rid of his former patron, it is doubtful if by then even his intervention would have made much difference.

Anwarul Haq's wife predeceased him. He is survived by two sons, one of whom lives in London, where he himself had many friends.

When partition came in 1947, he opted to go with the new state of Pakistan. Most of his early career had been spent in the Punjab where he served first as a deputy commissioner before, after partition, being appointed deputy secretary (defence) in the new Pakistan Government secretariat. But his heart was in the law and he soon transferred to the judiciary. He gradually worked his way up from being an additional district judge to being a sessions judge and then a Justice of the High Court in Lahore. Once he became Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, he acted as President of Pakistan during General Zia ul-Haq's absences abroad.

His relations with President Zia were reasonably close — they both came from the same region of the country. He never considered, however, whether his judgments would please the powers-that-be — merely whether they were right.

If he had followed his own instincts, he would almost certainly have been in favour of the Supreme Court accepting Bhutto's eventual petition for clemency (the deposed Prime Minister refused to submit it to President Zia). But, as a judge, he was convinced that there was no legal ground for doing so — the exercise of mercy being the prerogative of the executive.

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## PERSONAL COLUMN

**EX-SERVICES MENTAL WELFARE SOCIETY**

With its headquarters in London, this society provides a range of services for ex-servicemen and women who have mental health problems. It offers counselling, support groups, and information on benefits and services. For more details, contact the society at 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100.

**COMBAT STRESS**

Combat stress is a common problem for ex-servicemen and women. It can be caused by the trauma of war, the loss of comrades, or the physical and psychological effects of combat. Combat stress can lead to a range of symptoms, including anxiety, depression, and post-traumatic stress disorder. For more information, contact the Combat Stress Centre at 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100.

**HELP CARE FOR PEOPLE LIVING WITH CANCER**

People living with cancer need support and care. The Cancer Relief Macmillan Fund provides a range of services, including counselling, support groups, and financial help. For more details, contact the fund at 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100.

**Old and Fit NOT Old and Sick**

Help us make old and fit a fact of life. A donation now and a legacy later, please. For more information, contact the Old and Fit campaign at 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100.

**THE TIMES**

When you place an advertisement in The Times, you can also place a complimentary notice in the Sunday Times. For more details, contact the advertising department at 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100.

**THE RAF RISES TO THE CHALLENGE**

From 1919 the Fund has been helping RAF Members, their widows and children including many thousands disabled during the last war, during training and now, today, whenever conflict arises. Last year over £275 million was needed to help over 10,000 cases. Please help with a donation or remember us in your will. For more details, contact the fund at 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100.

**TIGERS EXTINCT?**

Yes, the magnificent wild tiger would be extinct in the wild in a few short years unless immediate action is taken to prevent the current tiger crisis turning into an international tragedy. The Tiger Trust is the only organisation in the world exclusively fighting to save the majestic wild tiger from extinction. To find out more or to make an immediate donation write to: THE TIGER TRUST, Cheltenham, BSE, Stroud H29 5RG, Reg. Charity No. 1914670.

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**MR WILSON LOOKS FORWARD TO WRITING AND CONSTITUENCY WORK**

In his last day in the office of Prime Minister, Mr Wilson spoke yesterday of two ambitions: to write a book about how Britain is governed and to deploy himself as an MP "because I am a great devotee of Parliament and want to be remembered above all as a parliamentarian".

In an interview with the Press Association he said: "I am happy to be the longest-serving peacetime Prime Minister in this century. Gladstone certainly formed four Administrations, as I did, but he was older when he formed his first than I was when I formed my fourth. I never regarded him as someone to compete with or emulate."

He was leaving regretfully, because the Prime Minister's job was the most exciting in the realm. "I wanted to go at a time when many of our problems have been solved ... and the field of succession would be wide open to the greatest number ..."

He thought his greatest achievement as Prime Minister was in his third and fourth Administrations, "to unite the country in the fight against inflation and the consequent

**ON THIS DAY**  
April 6, 1976

Harold Wilson, created Baron Wilson of Rievaulx in 1983, Prime Minister 1964-70, 1974-76, was succeeded by James Callaghan. His record as longest-serving peacetime Prime Minister this century was broken by Margaret Thatcher, 1979-1990.

problem of unemployment: in other words, to replace confrontation and conflict within our national family by concern and cooperation."

His two great disappointments were not to have settled the Rhodesian issue or to have made more progress in Northern Ireland.

Now he was stepping down after nearly eight years as Prime Minister, he wanted to do more for his constituency. He also planned "to press the great causes I have been keen about as a backbench MP and as a member of the most distinguished club in Britain, the Society of Former Prime Ministers." He

intended to write some reflective pieces and a book about how Britain is governed.

"I have read so much by academic experts, but as one who served in Churchill's Cabinet Secretariat in 1940, I wrote the Cabinet minutes, and then was a member of the Attlee Cabinet in 1947, I know more than anyone about how Britain's government works."

"There will be no more memoirs for a long time, although I will try to get down on paper as soon as I can my recollections of this most exciting government of 1974-1976."

Mr Wilson said he was a trustee of the D'Oyly Carte Opera Company and would now have time to go to shows. He had not been to more than 20 shows in his 13 years as party leader. "I shall now have more time for reading for pleasure and to see films." He said his successor would get his loyal support, "particularly when the going is rough."

Asked if there were any decisions he now regretted, he replied: "One, possibly, looking back, I wish we could have devalued sterling in 1966, but the International Monetary Fund rules were very tough then. I regret certain appointments, some of whom have gone from strength to strength, as a result of the fact that I brought them from the obscurity from which I realise now they should not have emerged."



Tim Jones introduces a three-page report on the launch of the *Oriana*, P&O's superliner built for the growing cruise market

# Flagship that is British at heart

A new era of cruise luxury is heralded today when the Queen names the first superliner custom-built for the British market. The *Oriana*, the fastest cruise liner launched for more than 25 years — capable of 25 knots — is a commitment to the future by P&O Cruises. She is a £200 million investment by the company in continuing development, service and excellence.

Despite teething troubles with vibration at high speeds during sea trials, exclusively revealed in *The Times* on March 22, she is equipped with the biggest stabilisers ever fitted to a ship to ensure smooth sailing.

While many fine ships sail the seven seas, some appear to have come from the same production line. Features vary, but many have the stamp of a land-based hotel chain: comfortable, familiar, but lacking a distinctive style.

The *Oriana*, 69,153 tons of elegance, changes all that. The decision to build a superliner dedicated to the British market was seen as a bold and exciting move.

Lord Sterling of Plaistow, the chairman of P&O, and his fellow executives, recognised the growing popularity of cruising. Gwyn Hughes, the managing director of P&O Cruises, says: "The number of potential cruisers is soaring as those born in the 1950s and 1960s grow older. We need the *Oriana* — which will carry 10 per cent of British cruise passengers — just to keep pace with the growth of the market."

The ship, which will carry 760 crew, is 353 feet long and 106 feet wide, and has ten decks.

Lord Sterling and his team believe that the British are suffi-

ciently different for their specific desires to be catered for.

With centuries of maritime tradition running through its history, the island race has an ingrained love affair with the sea. The trick is to encapsulate memories and desires and meld them into a modern superliner whose facilities and style will ensure that she maintains a pre-eminence for decades to come.

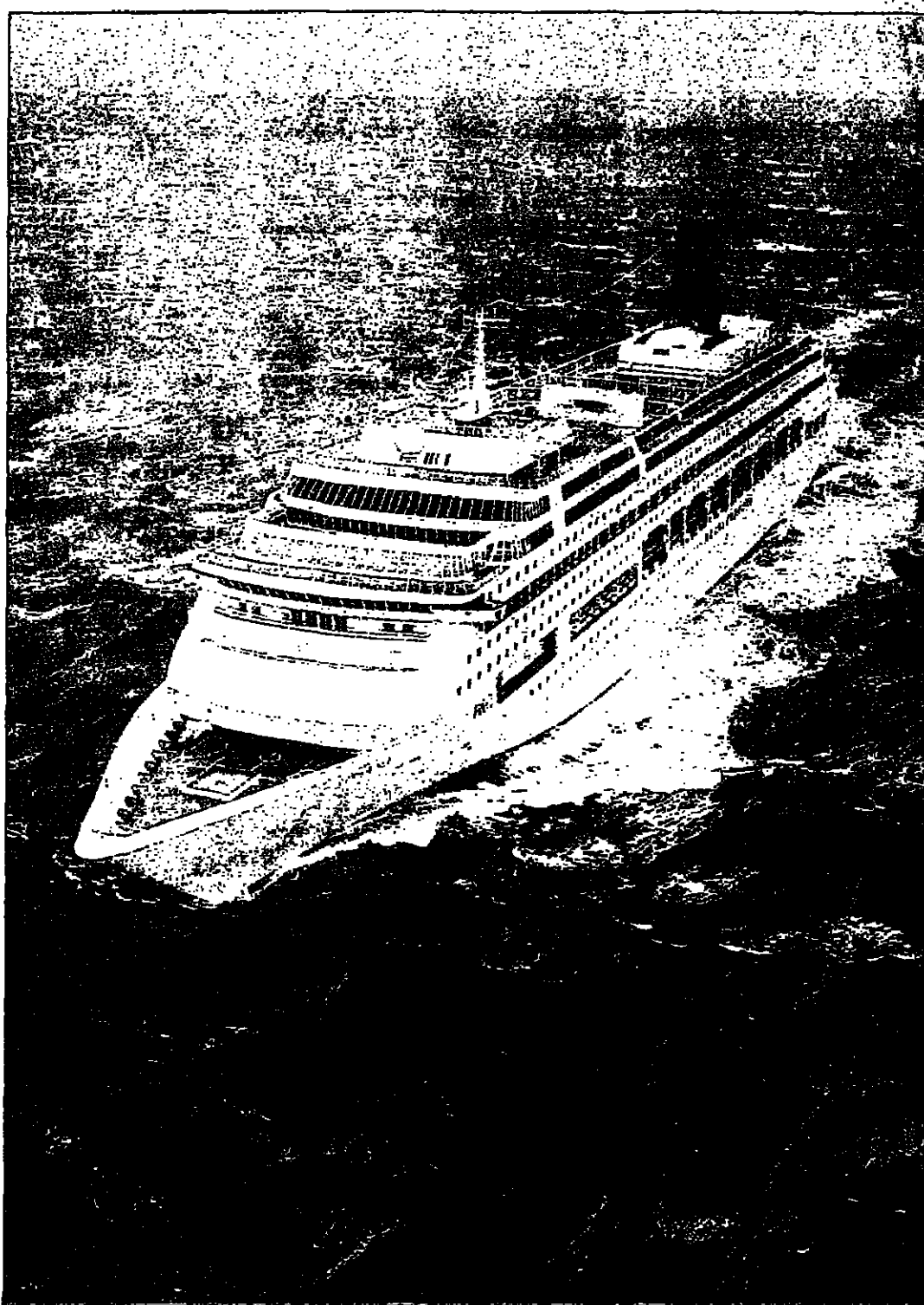
Although the *Oriana* is a superliner for the next century, her designers incorporated within the basic philosophy of her build those features which have ensured the enduring popularity of the *Canberra*, which was introduced in 1961.

The reasons for the popularity of the *Canberra* with British passengers included the relationship of accommodation decks to public rooms to allow an easy flow around the ship and the variety of places where everybody could feel at home, whatever their tastes.

The 1,975 passengers who sail on the new flagship of P&O's cruise fleet will thus have a comfortable link with a much-loved ship, while enjoying the best that design and technology can provide.

The *Oriana*'s brochure reads at times like the *Guinness Book of Records*. She has more deck space (2.5 acres) than any other cruise ship afloat, and one of her three swimming pools is also the largest on any liner. She also has a higher proportion of balcony cabins than any other cruise ship based in the UK.

Her on-board art collection of nearly 3,000 works, all by British artists, surpasses the number hung in the National Gallery, while her West End-style Theatre Royal, with



The *Oriana* has more deck space, and a larger swimming pool than any other cruise ship afloat

650 individually air-conditioned seats, is bigger than on any other ship. One stunning feature is the waterfall which descends the full height of the four-deck atrium, while the teak decks and rich wood panelling proclaim that, unlike her American chrome and marble ri-

vals, she is the very model of a modern British ship.

She will fly the Red Ensign, but she was not built in the UK. Although British yards had the opportunity to tender, none did. The ship was built by Meyer Werft at Papenburg in Germany in the

largest covered building dock in the world.

In spite of that, she has within her immense input from home-based companies and will sail from sunrise to sunset as a symbol of British innovation and faith in the future.

## Boom time for the cruise business

Rivals slash prices as 22 new holiday ships are brought into the market

The *Oriana* is being launched into a market which is growing faster than any other sector of the travel industry. Every year, cruising becomes more popular and the shipping lines are introducing ships as fast as they can.

In the past five years the market has grown by more than 60 per cent and this year 300,000 people will take a cruise. By the turn of the century more than 500,000 — some predict as many as three quarters of a million — British holidaymakers will choose to cruise on one of the scores of liners now operating around the world.

Between now and 1997, about 22 ships, including the *Oriana*, will be brought into the market and the choice of cruises is expanding. According to the Passenger Shipping Association (PSA), the big success story last year was the West Coast of America, especially Alaska, which had an 87 per cent growth rate to 19,482 passengers. The British appear to be particularly keen on the wildlife and spectacular scenery.

The biggest single sector of the market remains the Caribbean "fly/sail" cruises which entail a flight, normally to Miami, before joining an American-based cruise ship. About 86,500 Britons choose this way to sail in the calmest waters to the most attractive islands in the world. The Caribbean dominates the market with 43 per cent of the business, followed by the Mediterranean with 10 per cent and Scandinavia with 3 per cent.

Until now, however, the number of berths in ships leaving British ports has been limited and as a result only 80,715 passengers joined cruises from the UK in 1994 — almost exactly the same as the year before. The PSA says that this is about to

change as the *Oriana* and other cruise ships come on to the market. They are likely to be concentrated on the Mediterranean followed by the Canaries and Madeira, as 70 per cent have been over many years.

William Gibbons, director of the PSA, says that the figures prove that the diversity and quality of the cruises available are broadening their appeal. "This will be a dramatic and exciting year for the UK cruise industry," he says.

"Eight new ships came into service in 1995 including the *Oriana*. Capacity out of UK ports will be further boosted by CTC's ship *Southern Cross*, and the move by

Airtours to enter the UK cruising market should also substantially increase sales."

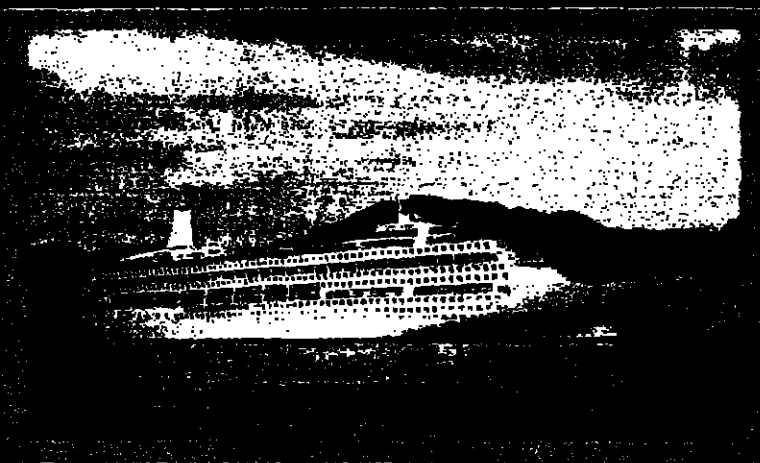
The idyll of a slow passage with luxury at every turn still appeals mostly to older people and the average age for cruisers is the early forties. A determined effort by the shipping lines to rid itself of the elderly image has seen a steady decline in the average age of passengers. Nonetheless, the over-55s still account for a quarter of cruisers and their demands for high quality accommodation has seen a dramatic improvement in standards on board.

P&O and Cunard each has about 30 per cent of UK market share followed by the Royal Caribbean Cruise Line with 15 per cent and Ukrainian-based CTC with 10 per cent. Airtours has bought a ship of its own, introduced its own brochure, and cut prices to a fraction of what they were three years ago. Some predict that the rapid growth of the budget market could do for cruising what the package holiday did to foreign travel in the 1970s.

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**Tim Jones looks at the *Oriana's* elegance above and below the waterline**

Wherever she sails, the *Oriana's* stylish lines will mark her out as one of the great ocean passenger liners. Three top cruise architects and designers, from Sweden, Britain and Norway, are responsible for the design of P&O's new German-built flagship.

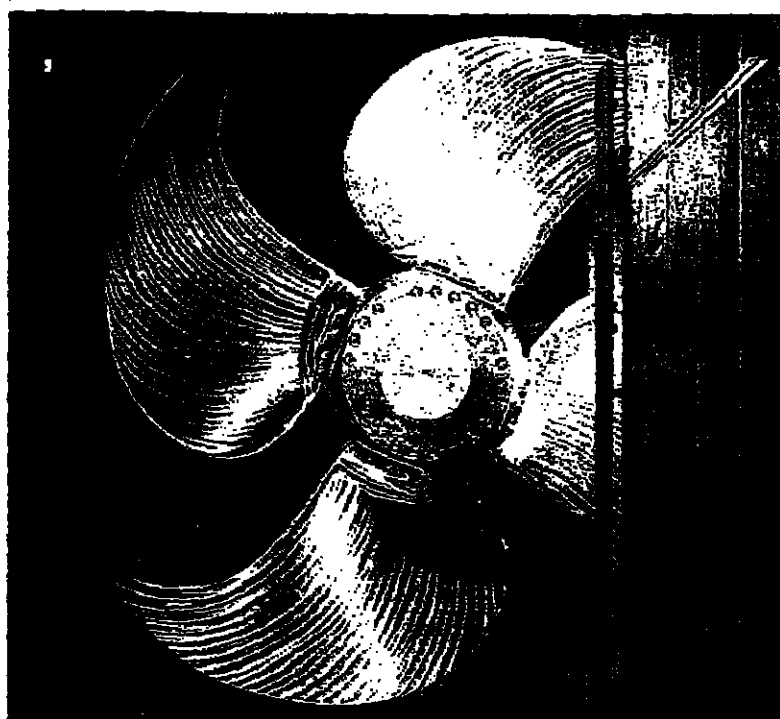
Robert Tilberg, whose company is based in southern Sweden, is responsible for the overall style of the ship, including the external profile and public room arrangements. John McNeice, who is based in London, has designed many of the public rooms, while Peter Yran from Norway is responsible for the design of all passenger and officer cabins.

Passengers will be able to enjoy and admire the conceptual skills and flair which give the mighty ship her distinctive elegance and atmosphere, but some aspects of the *Oriana* will remain mysteries to those who cruise on her.

The passengers will be concerned primarily with the service and comfort on offer. They do not need to know about, and may not be interested in, the technical aspects of the *Oriana* which will contribute enormously to their safety and well being.



The William Fawcett suite, an AA grade cabin on the *Oriana* and, right, one of the giant twin propellers built by the Dutch firm LIPS BV



## An ocean-going beauty

Yes the four mighty engines which power the liner weigh a total of 742 tonnes and provide power to two 33.7 tonne variable pitch propellers in order to deliver her high cruising speed of 25 knots. The *Oriana's* speed allows her to take on cruises worldwide.

Her stabilisers were built by Brown Brothers of Edinburgh. With an area of 21.5 square metres, they each weigh 93 tonnes and are

controlled by sensitive instrumentation to detect and register the ship's movements.

In order to manoeuvre safely in and out of port, the *Oriana* must be able to turn in her own length, move sideways, ahead or astern. To enable her to do this, she has three bow thrusters and one stern thruster. In addition her rudders can be made to act as giant flaps to direct water from the main propellers in different

directions. These computer-controlled devices are linked to a joystick — not much larger than the gear stick of a car — which is mounted in a central position on the bridge. From there the captain controls the liner, using the stick to carry out the precise movements needed.

Anyone who remembers the rust-streaked appearance of the *Canberra* on her return from the Falklands War will

be well aware of the corrosive effect of salt. Above water, the problem can be countered by constant painting, but beneath the waves fresh ways of monitoring the problem are needed.

The answer, for the *Oriana*, is an impressed current cathodic protection system. This means that the hull of the ship will be electrified. The charge is minuscule

— just one quarter of a volt — and works on the principle that if electricity can be prevented from escaping into the water or can be made to flow in the opposite direction, then the rusting process can be halted.

It is these state-of-the-art technical features which, although largely hidden from the passengers, will ensure their cruise on the *Oriana* will be trouble-free.

## Steaming into the big league

Lord Sterling has taken a leading role in the change of fortunes at P&O

Lord Sterling, chairman of P&O, came relatively late to shipping. He had built up his own company, Sterling Guarantee Trust, and in 1980 joined P&O as a non-executive director.

In 1983, Trafalgar House made an aggressive takeover bid for P&O. "In order to fight the bid it was suggested I take over as chairman," Lord Sterling says. "We won, if that is what you call it."

In 1985 he merged SGT with P&O. "I had joined at a time when passenger shipping was not particularly great at P&O," he says. "We had only a relatively small fleet, the Princess fleet operating out of the West Coast of

America, the *Canberra* over here, and, from 1984, the *Royal Princess*. The company has changed quite dramatically since then. It was capitalised somewhere around £200 million then. Now, it must be about £4 billion. "Ships were no longer the natural link to India, once the Boeing 707s came. The game changed completely. The fleet was getting out of date, and we were living on past glories," Lord Sterling says. "My view was that we could no longer say, 'because we are P&O you should be quite happy with outdated facilities'."

It became a question of what the company was prepared to risk, what it was going to do in the future. "I am convinced that you have to have modern equipment if you are to compete with the best in the world. That meant huge capital investment in the fleet. We either pulled out of cruising completely or became one of the biggest in world terms."

Lord Sterling had this quantum leap rigorously choose the names of the ships. Lord Sterling foresees other cruise markets opening up, particularly around Asia, and the home market expanding. "We have teams going round the world's shipyards just seeing new designs, cost-saving, and new technology with an eye to the future. Already we have three ships being built, the *Sun* and the *Dawn Princesses*, and the newest of 104,000 gross tonnage, which will be by far the world's largest when it arrives in 1997."

"The cruise market is expanding as more and more people learn about cruising. The age range has widened enormously, and with it the whole market, which is extremely healthy."

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CATHERINE STOTT

## A life-saving captain on the bridge

When the *Oriana* slips her anchor at Southampton on Sunday to begin her maiden cruise, the man in command will be Commodore Ian Gibb, 59, who has also been named Commodore of P&O Cruises and of the Princess Cruises fleet, a total of 11 ships, *Tim Jones* writes.

He was the winner of an award from the Royal Humane Society for saving life at sea, after rescuing an elderly passenger who fell off the quayside in Istanbul in 1978. "I handed my gold-braid cap and VHF radio set to another crew member, dived in and fished

him out. Once we had pulled the water out of him he started complaining loudly that his shopping bag full of sevens was still in the water."

Commodore Gibb joined P&O as a cadet in 1954 at the age of 17, rather than going into the family stevedoring business. There are four generations of master mariners on both sides of his family. He became chief officer on the *Chistur* in 1972, was promoted to captain in 1975 and made

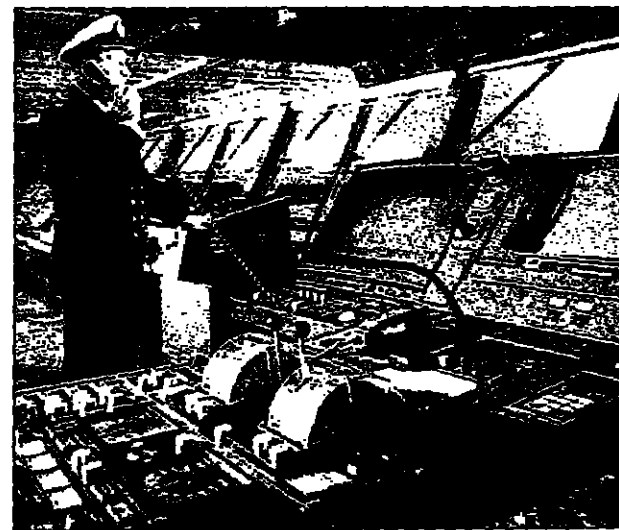
master of *Sea Princess* in 1980. Three years later he went ashore as general manager fleet (West Coast America) and returned to sea in 1985, again in command of the *Sea Princess*, then of the *Island Princess* and the *Canberra*.

It was his long association with the *Canberra* which was partly instrumental in his being chosen to captain the *Oriana*. The company considered it crucial to appoint a captain who could meet the

challenge of creating the atmosphere of the *Canberra* on board the *Oriana*.

Commodore Gibb says: "My role will be to blend a feeling of modernity with one of timelessness and tradition, a combination which I know will be appreciated by our British passengers. The *Oriana*, with the sophistication of her engines and stabilisers and her central computer system, represents a quantum leap."

"Apart from the *Canberra*, which has long been a favourite of mine, no other ship would give me greater pleasure to command."



Commodore Ian Gibb at the controls of the *Oriana*

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Stalwart (1887) at anchor. Courtesy P&O Cruises

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THE TIMES THURSDAY APRIL 6 1995

# Charming, but oh so choppy

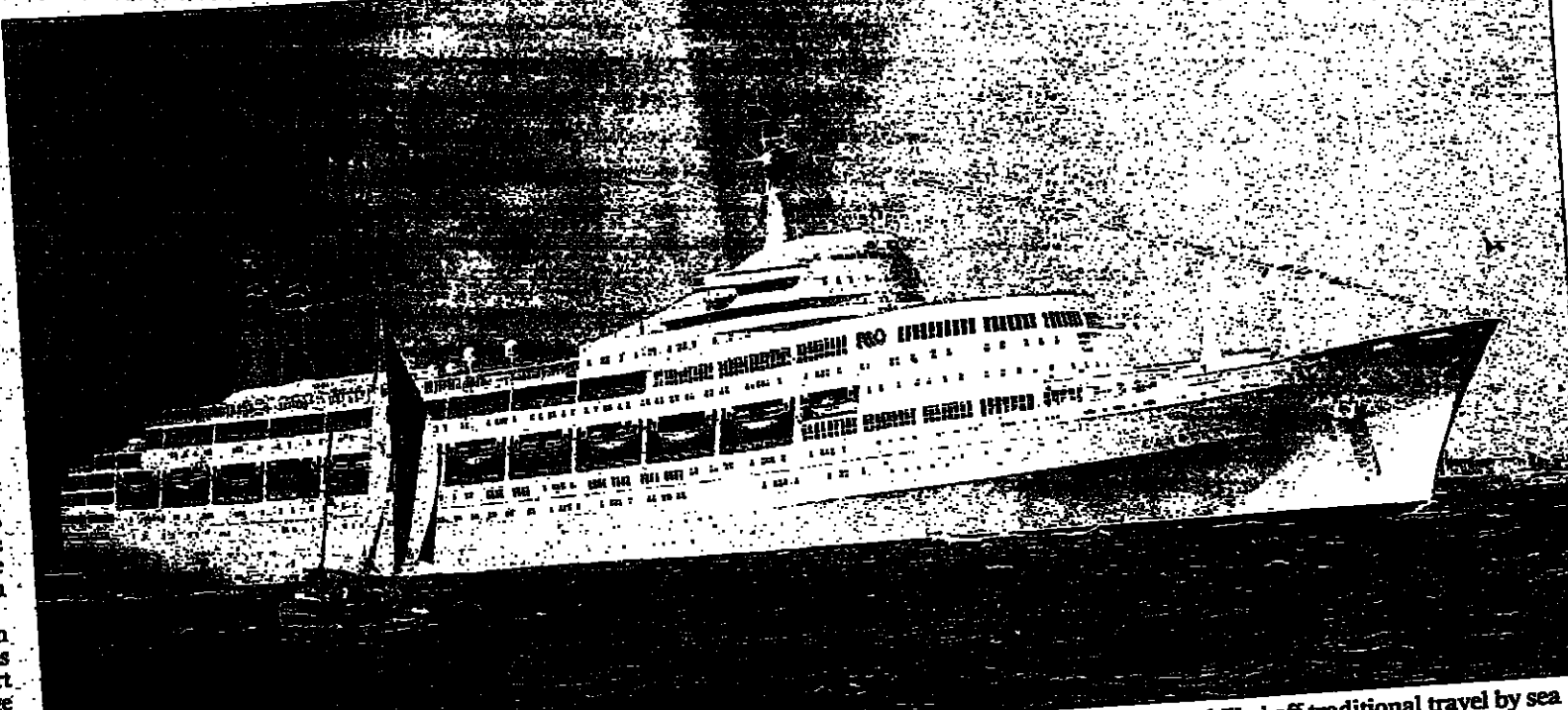
On June 20, 1844, an advertisement appeared in *The Illustrated London News* for a six-week "tour by steam" of the Mediterranean on the *Iberia*, "the Pacific and Oriental Steam Navigation Company's well-known splendid steamship".

The advertisement suggests that P&O was the first to enter the cruise business — at least with any degree of success. The nearest rival was Richard Hoare, a London leather merchant, who in 1836 organised a round trip of two ships to Newfoundland. But as only one ship returned, and the passengers who made it back are said to have resorted to cannibalism, Hoare's venture can hardly be said to have been a cruise in the modern sense.

The 33-year-old William Makepeace Thackeray was one of the passengers on part of the maiden cruising voyage of the *Iberia*, a 516-ton wooden paddle steamer, as part of a grand tour, calling at Vigo, Gibraltar, Malta, Rhodes, Athens, Smyrna, Constantinople, Jaffa and Alexandria, with excursions at each port.

The foundations of the P&O fortunes had been laid as recently as 1837 when Captain Richard Bourne, a Dublin shipowner who had joined the partnership of Brodie, McGhie, Wilcox, a London shipbroker, and Arthur Anderson, a Shetland-born former Royal Navy clerk, won the first commercial contract for carrying mail by sea.

Though Thackeray could not stand the thought of another journey through the Bay of Biscay and traveled home overland, he otherwise seems typical of many of the thousands of passengers who followed him. He criticised the sights ashore — Athens was a "rickety agglomeration of



The *Canberra*, delivered in 1961, was the last P&O ship built for passenger-line voyages after the airliner killed off traditional travel by sea.

In 1844 William Makepeace Thackeray joined P&O's first cruise. John Grigsby charts the journey and the company's history

huts", the ghetto of Jerusalem was "premier in filth" while recollecting the trip with delight when he came home. "So easy, so charming and I think profitable — it leaves such a store of pleasant recollections — that I can't but recommend all persons who have the time and means to make a similar journey," he wrote in *Notes of a Journey from Cornhill to Grand Cairo*, the account of his trip which made his reputation.

The author of *Vanity Fair* was one of the pioneers of the "freebie", that system when well-known people and jour-

nalists are given a free passage in the hope that they will speak and write enthusiastically about it.

However, it was not until the 1890s that cruising became fully established when P&O cruises became a feature of the shipping scene, with the *British Medical Journal* recommending "ocean holidays" as beneficial to health. The company entered the business in earnest in 1904 when the former mail steamer *Rome* started a new career as the cruise yacht *Vectis*.

Cruising did not resume at its former level after the First World War until the 1920s. The *Viceroy of India*, P&O's first turbo-electric-powered ship, was introduced in 1929 as a liner to India and a cruise ship, with the line's first indoor swimming pool. In the 1920s, a cruise was often used to introduce a liner. For example, in 1925, the *Ranchi*'s maiden voyage was a cruise to Norway.

Sea voyaging changed dramatically after the Second World War, and the *Canberra*, delivered in 1961, was the last P&O ship built for passen-

ger-line voyages. The jet airliner killed off the company's traditional passenger services in little more than a decade.

Forced to concentrate on sea travel for leisure, P&O abolished the classes of accommodation on board and became one of the world's biggest cruise operators, acquiring established operators Princess Cruises, Swan Hellenic and Stinar along the way. In 1982, the *Canberra*, the "great white whale", became the most famous merchant ship in the world when she took part in the Falklands campaign.

But that year the number of

## Floating home from home

Fifty British companies have supplied goods for the superliner

From bars to spas, from carpets to china, and from lifejackets to linen, British companies have been providing the remarkable array of equipment needed in a floating hotel. Nearly 50 UK companies have played their part in turning the *Oriana* into a home from home.

Some are well-known names. Courtaulds, for example, has supplied 100,000 litres of specialist paint from its International Paint subsidiary in the North East. Thorne Security has installed its Saturn computer system to control fire doors, sprinklers and security lighting. Slumberland has supplied pillows for passengers and crew.

For others, their contribution to the *Oriana* is the biggest order ever won. Engleler, a family firm founded in South Normanton, Derbyshire, in 1926, began fulfilling its contract two years ago and since then has filled more than 60 containers with furniture made for the liner.

Another ten British companies have provided furniture for the liner, while seven have contributed linen, blankets and bedspreads. Nearly 50,000 square yards of Axminster carpet have been woven by Brintons of Kidderminster, Hereford and Worcester, and the contract took 18 months to fulfil. Designs for the *Oriana* range from the light and dark green shades of a cricket pitch for the Lord's Tavern to Tudor

roses in the Anderson's bar. Chinacraft supplied 30,000 pieces of china for the Conservatory. Lord Queensberry, ceramic designer and former professor of ceramics at the Royal College of Art, was called in by Chinacraft to produce a design in keeping with the restaurant's art deco style pictures with their black and silver frames. He decided on a bold design of glossy gunmetal grey diamonds on a white base.

The order of 86,546 pieces of fine china for the other restaurants was a massive one even for Wedgwood. It features the rising sun symbol adorning the bow of the ship. The china was made at Wedgwood's factory at Barlaston, Staffordshire.

What is claimed to be the ultimate in on-board health and fitness has been provided by Champneys, which has its own health centre at Tring, Hertfordshire. The Champneys spa is on the Lido deck offering hairdressing and beauty treatments, exercise classes and aromatherapy, facial treatment and seaweed body wraps.

The *Oriana*'s lifejackets were produced by Cosalt International at North Shields, Tyne and Wear, and its life rafts by RFD of Godalming, Surrey. Floor-level safety lighting, more effective than overhead lighting in case of fire, was provided by Exdistaltie of Hutton, Essex.

RODNEY HOBSON

## Spring cruises in the Mediterranean

With three ships to choose from, now that the *Oriana* has joined the fleet, P&O Cruises offers passengers the choice of sailing from Southampton or flying to Venice to join the *Sea*

*Princess*. Nineteen of this year's 54 cruises will be fly-cruises. The *Oriana*'s sell-out maiden voyage, departing from Southampton, will take 1,760 passengers to the Atlantic

Isles, then to Mediterranean ports throughout the spring and summer. For those who favour cooler climes in high summer, she will have one cruise to Iceland and the Norwegian fjords, another to the Baltic, a tempting itinerary since it includes Oslo, Copenhagen, Helsinki, St Petersburg and Gdansk.

On the *Oriana*, like *Canberra*, there are a small number of four-berth cabins, known as the Friendly Pairs, with a 10 per cent reduction for each of four adults. Otherwise, prices for a 13-night Mediterranean cruise in high season start at £1,990 in a two-bed cabin with shower and toilet.

All cabins have air-conditioning, refrigerators and television. There are generous reductions for children, up to the age of 16, according to the accommodation booked.

The *Canberra* returns from her world cruise tomorrow and leaves on Saturday for a one-off three-week voyage to the Caribbean. She will divide her summer between the east and west Mediterranean, the North Cape, the Atlantic Isles and North Africa. A nine-night cruise to the Land of the Vikings in late spring costs from £1,035 a person in a two-bed cabin.

The *Sea Princess* will emerge from her April refurbishment with a new name, the *Victoria*, ready to begin her fly-cruise programme which will include many exotic and more distant ports. Istanbul, Yalta, Limassol, Tarsis in Syria, Haifa and Aqaba are well within the reach of itineraries that begin in Venice.

A smaller ship than the others, the *Victoria* carries 700 passengers in luxurious accommodation. On the Treasures of the Near East cruise in mid-summer, a two-bed cabin costs £2,100 for a 14-night cruise, including return flights to Venice.

CATHERINE STOTT

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## NEWS

## Major pressed to move Bottomley

John Major was under mounting pressure to move Virginia Bottomley from her post as Health Secretary after she was savaged by Conservative MPs over her handling of the shake-up of London's health services.

She was accused of vandalising health services and lacking sensitivity during one of the most unhappy appearances at the despatch box of a Cabinet minister in recent times. Pages 1, 6

## Condemned man attends hearing

Nicholas Ingram, the British-born convicted murderer sentenced to die in the electric chair tonight, caught a brief glimpse of the outside world when he attended a last-minute appeal for a stay of execution. It was the first time in eight years that he has been allowed to leave the Georgia Classification Centre where he has spent 12 years. Page 1

## Howard defeat

Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, will have to introduce emergency legislation to cover compensation payments to victims of crime after suffering a Lords defeat. Page 1

## Ferry safety

Roll-on, roll-off ferries stand a far better chance of staying afloat once water has penetrated the bow-doors if they are equipped with "transverse bulk-heads" MPs were told. Page 1

## Wakeham inquiry

An inquiry was launched into a contract awarded by Lord Wakeham when he was a government minister to a company of which he is now a director. Page 2

## Dublin INLA case

A man once described as the Old Bailey as the chief of staff of the outlawed Irish National Liberation Army appeared in court in Dublin. Page 2

## Dying woman's baby

A woman given virtually no chance of recovering from head injuries sustained in a car crash is being kept alive so that her unborn baby can live. Page 3

## Stagg sues police

Colin Stagg, the man acquitted last year of murdering Rachel Nickell on Wimbledon Common, is to sue the police over his arrest. He said that he had been granted legal aid. Page 3

## Injured kite waits for call of the wild

A rare red kite is being treated at London Zoo after being found with a shotgun wound to its wing. The bird is one of a few of red kites reintroduced to England and Scotland from Sweden and Spain six years ago. It was found near Watlington, Oxfordshire, and is being treated at the Institute of Zoology. If it survives it will be returned to the wild. Page 3

## War truths

The cosy image of wartime Britain as a crime-free society with people sharing hardship takes a severe knock in a study that reveals a soaring divorce rate and a 42 per cent rise in the prison population. Page 5

## Military axe

Radical recommendations to cut the most senior military ranks and slash allowances in the armed forces were unveiled by the Ministry of Defence. Page 7

## Blair backs Europe

Tony Blair gave his clear backing for the principle of a single currency as he set out the "patriotic case" for Britain to be at the heart of Europe. Page 8

## Greenhouse gas cuts

Britain and Germany pressed America to support deeper cuts in the emission of "greenhouse" gases or risk an increasingly unstable world. Page 9

## Rwanda torture

Up to 50,000 people are being detained in Rwanda, half of them feared held in unofficial secret detention centres where torture is commonplace. Page 10

## French sleaze

Claims that French socialists extorted almost £1m from the Franco-British industrial giant, GEC-Alsthom, thrust the sleaze factor back into the country's presidential election campaign. Page 11



A Hutu awaiting trial for helping in the slaughter of 500,000 Tutsis a year ago, looks out from his cell in Kigali, Rwanda. Page 10

## BUSINESS

GEC ultimatum: The Ministry of Defence has given GEC a year to make its Phoenix remote-controlled surveillance aircraft work or face cancellation of the £230 million contract. Pages 42, 44

Business breather: Allowing companies are to be given a 28-day breathing space to try to save their businesses under new Government proposals. Page 23

Barclays pay: Andrew Buxton, the chairman of Barclays Bank, joined directors earning more than half a million pounds a year in 1994, with a rise to £523,000. Page 23

Markets: The FT-SE 100 index rose 2.1 to 3,190.2. Sterling fell from 84.8 to 84.7 as the pound rose from \$1.6033 to \$1.6035 but slipped from DM2.2217 to DM2.2180. Page 26

Golf: If Nick Price wins the Masters in Augusta, he will become the first man since Ben Hogan in 1953 to win three major championships in a row. Pages 42, 44

Rugby union: The Rugby Football Union is to vote on a proposal to limit the number of non-England-qualified players in the Courage Clubs Championship. Page 44

Boxing: Sky Sports signed a deal worth an estimated £50 million over two years to show the comeback fights of Mike Tyson, as well as Frank Bruno, Nigel Benn and Naseem Hamed. Page 44

Football: John Jensen damaged an ankle in training and will miss Arsenal's Cup Winners' Cup semi-final first leg against Sampdoria at Highbury. Page 40

Dumb show: The Hollywood vogue for "stupid comedy" reaches its ultimate expression in *Dumb and Dumber*. The week's other big film release is the adaptation of Beryl Bainbridge's autobiography, *An Awfully Big Adventure*. Page 31

Other Jacksons: Janet Jackson, whose record sales now rival her brother Michael's, with a spectacular show in Sheffield. Page 31

Noley nights: It may not be the best festival in Britain this year but the South Bank Centre's tribute to the trendy minimalist composer Michael Nyman could well be the loudest. Page 32

Devil revived: Ben Jonson's satire on Jacobean morality, *The Devil is an Ass*, revived by the Royal Shakespeare Company. Page 33

Fortnight of heat: Jeanette Foster, whose husband went missing in Borneo, talks to Julia Llewellyn-Smith. Page 12

Valerie Grove: With the straight-backed 80-year-old Prunella Stack, who inherited a health and beauty league from her mother. Page 12

Pollo victory: "I felt as though the iron lung clasping my neck was a hideous form of straitjacket," says a polio sufferer on the fortieth anniversary of the vaccine. Page 13

There she goes: The launch of the *Oriana*. Pages 18, 19, 21

Into Africa: Land Rover moves into off-road safaris. Page 35

The past about us: Peter Ackroyd praises Simon Schama's *Landscape and Memory*, which resurrects the buried treasures of our environment. Page 34

Lighting up: Rachel Cusk reviews the Victoria Glendinning's *Electricity*, set in the 19th century. Page 35

Burundi follows the same bloody logic as Rwanda. In this twin country, a massacre by the ethnic group in power is unfortunately only the continuation of politics. *Le Figaro*

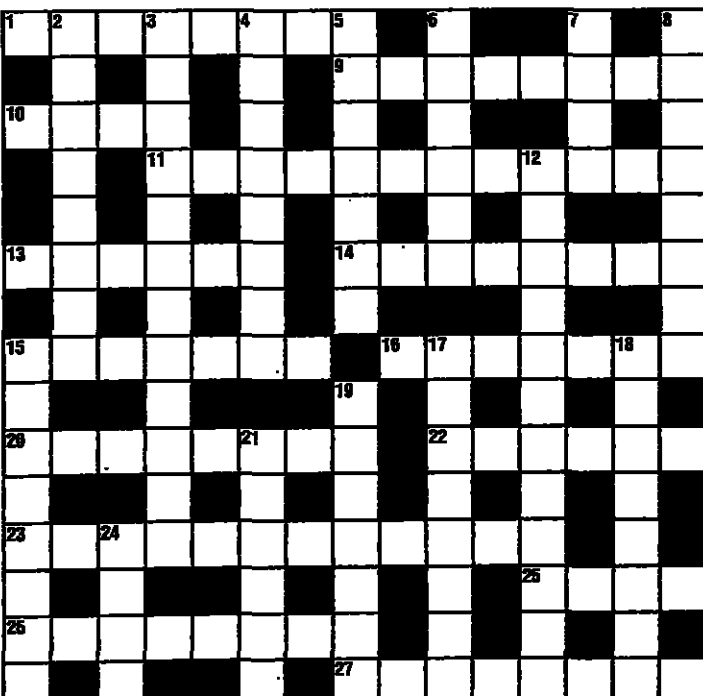
Baseball's two warring sides find themselves temporarily at peace. It is now time for a little magnanimity and an end to the mutual bashing. *The Washington Post*

## IN THE TIMES

■ LIFE AND SOUL  
Blue-eyed soul, or just blue rinse? David Sinclair on Wet Wet Wet's new album

■ PLUS  
The Valerie Grove interview, the Bernard Levin column and Caitlin Moran on rock

## THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 19,822



## ACROSS

- 1 Quickly cut a slice of meat (4,4)
- 9 Why peace-keepers go in first? It's madness (8)
- 10 Piano music for a duo (4)
- 11 Polonaise for brilliant finish (6,6)
- 13 Make secure in a storm, perhaps (6)
- 14 Sort out confusion as unit releases one crook (8)
- 15 Blunder leading to oil spill in port (7)
- 16 Crime is contained by minister's first act (7)
- 20 Stirling performer frenetically scored runs (8)
- 22 Keep silver in reserve for Friday, say (6)
- 23 Female cooked spinach dish, traditional fare (4,3,5)

## Solution to Puzzle No 19,821

TEMPLATE THANKS  
S P R I N T A V A I L A B L E  
T O U C H D E B I T  
U E O O H  
B U T T E R F L Y  
L Y C E U M S U N R I S E  
A R A L T O  
C L A N G T O A S T R A C K  
P A T I E N C E  
C H A M B L E O N M A N N A  
I R B E R T P I N  
A T T E N D H E R E W A R D

## DOWN

- 2 Approval to try and try again (4,4)
- 3 Musician's rare ability - no ground for complaint (7,5)
- 4 Taking part in such a rebellion is a bloomer (8)
- 5 Fight husband who's brutal and revolting (5,2)
- 6 Feature of body - part I'm having altered (6)
- 7 Wine that makes one endlessly excited (4)
- 8 Baring with the tail, finally (2,3,3)
- 12 Mathematical calculation extended a lot of soldiers (4,8)
- 15 Loathsome creature careless about fine plant (8)
- 17 Give encouragement without being physically present (8)
- 18 Runs into self-centredness as a cause of ill-feeling (8)
- 19 Acts collectively about church's foreign money (7)
- 21 Court activity to catch up with rising crime (6)
- 24 Block for animal accommodation (4)

Times Two Crossword, page 44

## THE TIMES WEATHER

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0801 500 followed by the appropriate code:

Greater London	701
West Surrey/Sussex	702
Dorset, Dorset & IOW	703
Devon & Cornwall	704
Wiltshire, Gloucestershire & Somerset	705
Berks, Bucks, Oxon	706
Beds, Herts & Essex	707
North/Surrey/Sussex/Hants	708
West Mid & Sh. Glam & Gwent	709
Shropshire, Hereford & W.orce	710
East Midlands	711
East of England	712
Lincoln & Humberside	713
Dyfed & Powys	714
Gwynedd & Clwyd	715
NW England	716
W S Wales & Wales	717
NE England	718
Wales & S. Glam & S. Wales	719
Channel Islands	720
W Central Scotland	721
East of Scotland	722
E Central Scotland	723
W Central Scotland	724
NW Scotland	725
Channel Islands	726
N Ireland	727

Weatherfax is charged at 39p per minute (cheap rate) and 49p per minute at all other times.

## AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic/roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0336 401 followed by the appropriate code:

London & SE traffic, roadworks	731
Essex/Herts/Beds/Bucks/Berks/Oxon	732
Kent/Surrey/Sussex/Hants	733
M25 London Orbital only	734
National traffic and roadworks	735
National motorways	736
West Country	737
Wales	738
Midlands	739
East of England	740
North-west England	741
North-east England	742
Scotland	743
Northern Ireland	744
AA Roadwatch is charged at 39p per minute (cheap rate) and 49p per minute at all other times.	

## HIGHEST &amp; LOWEST

Tuesday: Highest day temp: Southampton 17C (63F); lowest day temp: Lowest: 17C (63F); highest night temp: Lowest: 17C (63F); highest night temp: Lowest: 17C (63F).

General: England and Wales should have a dry and warm day for the most part and, despite a lot of cloud, central and eastern areas should see some sunshine. Along the west coast, however, it will remain cloudy and misty. Rain in western Scotland will spread east before largely dying out, leaving behind occasional drizzle. Small amounts of rain in Northern Ireland.

London, SE England, E Anglia, Central S England, E Midlands, E England, W Midlands, Central N, NE England: mainly dry, cloudy with some bright or clear spells. Winds westerly, moderate. Max 17C (63F).

Channel Isles, SW England, S Wales, N Wales, NW England: wales coastal mist and drizzle. Brighter at times away from exposed coasts. Winds west or northwest, moderate. Max 17C (63F), but 12C on cloudy coasts.

Lake District, Isle of Man, SW Scotland, Glasgow, N Ireland: cloudy with some rain, becoming drier and brighter later. Winds south-westerly, moderate, locally fresh. Max 15C (59F).

Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Central Highlands, Moray Firth, NE Scotland: mainly dry start, some rain for a time then drier and brighter again. Winds south-westerly, moderate or fresh. Max 15C (59F).

Argyll, NW Scotland: cloudy, rain at times. Winds south-westerly, moderate or fresh. Max 12C (54F).

Orkney, Shetland: dry, bright start, cloud and rain later. Winds south-westerly, moderate becoming westerly. Max 10C (50F).

Outlook: rain in the north spreading south and dying out. Cooler but dry and brighter everywhere by Saturday morning.

24 hrs to 5 pm: b=brilliant; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dist storm; ds=dist; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=showers; si=sleet; s=snow; sw=south; s=sea; t=thunder

Area	Max	Min	Wind	Sea
Aberdeen	14	0	0	0
London	14	0	0	0
London	14	0	0	0
London	14	0	0	0
London	14	0	0	0
London	14	0	0	0
London	14	0	0	0
London	14	0	0	0
London	14	0	0	0
London	14	0	0	0

These are Tuesday's figures

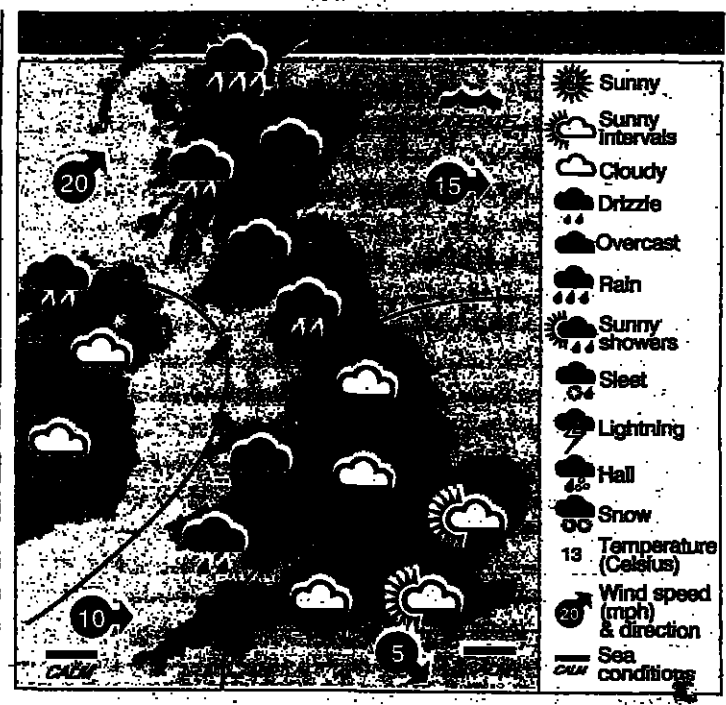
Area	Max	Min	Wind	Sea
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London	14	0	0	0
London	14	0	0	0
London	14	0	0	0
London	14	0	0	0
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London	14	0	0	0
London	14	0	0	0

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London	14	0	0	0
London	14	0	0	0
London	14	0	0	0
London	14	0	0	0
London	14	0	0	0

These are Tuesday's figures

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Changes to the chart below from noon: high G will expand northwards; low M and R will move northeast and start to fill; low S will edge southeast and fill



Changes to the chart below from noon: high G will expand northwards; low M and R will move northeast and start to fill; low S will edge southeast and fill

Area	Max	Min	Wind	Sea
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London	14	0	0	0
London	14	0	0	0
London	14	0	0	0

These are Tuesday's figures

These are Tuesday's figures

These are Tuesday's figures



ANATOLE KALETSKY 27

Could Britain pull out of Europe?

BOOKS 34, 35

Rachel Cusk on the new Victoria Glendinning

SPORT 38-44

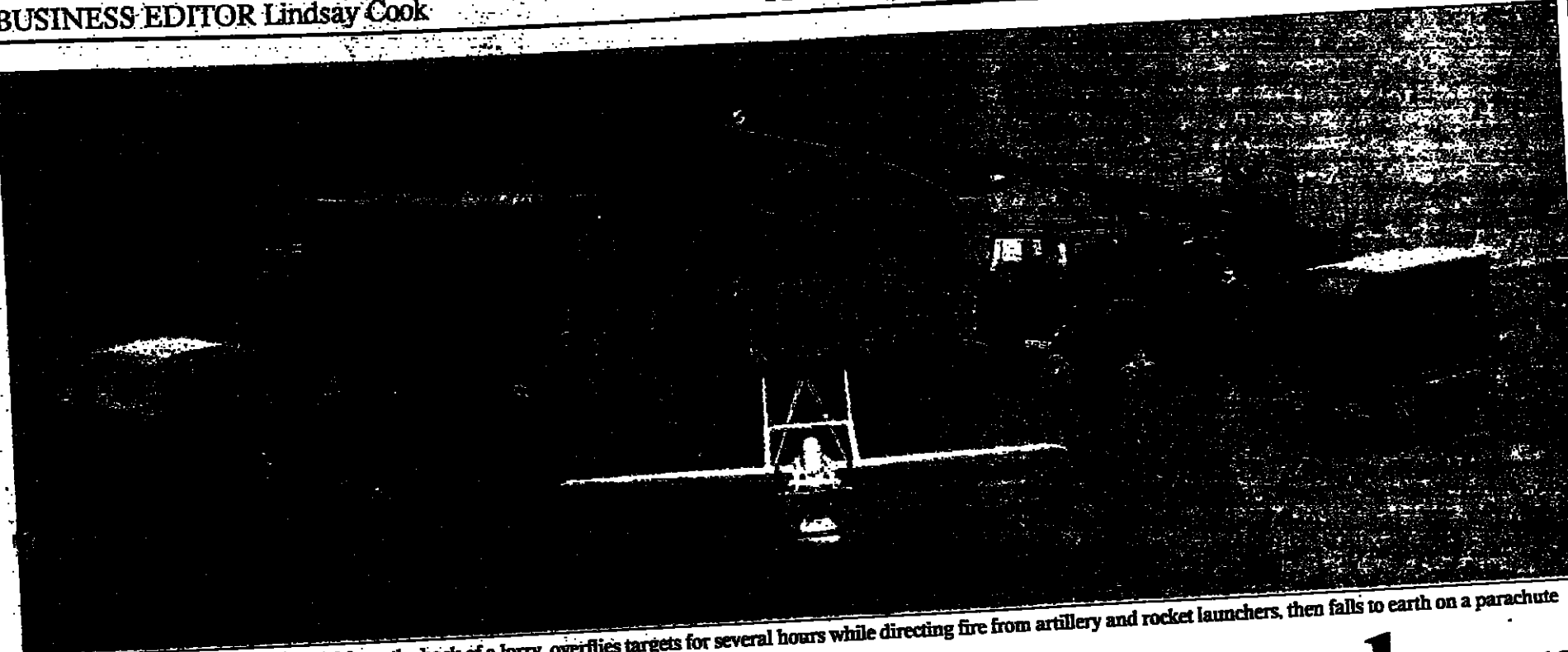
Faldo back on course for third Masters title

GEOFF BROWN ON THE NEW FILMS Arts 31-33

# THE TIMES

THURSDAY APRIL 6 1995

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook



High spy: the Phoenix is launched from the back of a lorry, overflies targets for several hours while directing fire from artillery and rocket launchers, then falls to earth on a parachute

## City lawyer on BCCI charge

By JON ASHWORTH

A PARTNER in Simmons & Simmons, one of the City's top law firms, has been indicted by American authorities on charges of suppressing evidence relating to the Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI) inquiry.

David Sandy, 40, faces up to eight years in prison for his alleged attempts to obstruct the BCCI investigation. Six other people, including four Simmons & Simmons partners, are accused of participating in the alleged conspiracy, but Mr Sandy alone has been charged. He faces two felony counts of tampering with physical evidence and a misdemeanor count of conspiracy in the fifth degree. The felonies each carry a maximum prison term of up to four years.

The indictment charges that Mr Sandy illegally concealed computer disk and printed versions of the business diary of Zafar Iqbal, the former chief executive officer of BCCI subsequently jailed for his part in the affair. In the diary, Iqbal summarised numerous conversations and transactions he had with BCCI officials and bank auditors - information important to the BCCI investigation.

Robert Morgenthau, Manhattan District Attorney, said that deliberate destruction and concealment of evidence was a grave matter, and Mr Sandy would be prosecuted "to the full extent of the law".

Simmons & Simmons declined to comment last night. Mr Sandy has declined to appear in New York voluntarily to face proceedings, and steps are now under way to extradite him.

The indictment is a blow to Simmons & Simmons, which represented BCCI's majority shareholders in London. The evidence shows that these shareholders were unaware of Mr Sandy's alleged activities.

## Make spy plane work or face action, GEC told

By ROSS TIEMAN

THE Ministry of Defence has given GEC a year to make its Phoenix remote-controlled surveillance aircraft work properly, at its own expense, or face cancellation of the £230 million contract.

If Britain's second-biggest defence contractor fails to deliver, the MoD will sue to recover £170 million of taxpayers' money spent on the plane, now six years behind schedule. While GEC struggles to ensure that the machine no longer breaks upon landing, the MoD will meet sales teams from overseas manufacturers to discuss purchasing a rival system.

The MoD strategy, announced yesterday in a Commons written reply by Roger Freeman, Procurement Minister, is designed to end mounting embarrassment over the miniature spy plane.

He said: "We believe that, provided the remaining technical problems can be over-



The propeller wears out too fast, and images are blurry as the plane's engine stalls

come within an acceptable timescale, the Phoenix system will provide a cost-effective means of meeting the Army's need."

Lord Weinstock, GEC managing director, and Peter Gershon, managing director of GEC-Marconi Avionics, which is developing Phoenix, have told the MoD they will commit substantial extra resources and are confident of making it work.

Problems with the spy plane, now under development for ten years, have tarnished the reputation of GEC. They have also exposed the weakness of MoD supervision.

Phoenix was one of the first fixed-price procurement contracts let during a switch away from cost-plus purchasing arrangements. But in its search for better value for money, the MoD failed to make sure it had enough information to ensure the contractor was making good progress, and did not enforce many of its own contractual rights to supervision. As a result, the

li. French and American systems.

According to MoD sources, the radar and thermal imaging systems work well. But the aircraft, built under sub-contract by Flight Refuelling, has to land on its back to avoid damaging the surveillance systems. This leads to frequent breakage. However, GEC-Marconi engineers believe they now have a solution to the damage problem. They plan to install a "cushion" airbag to cushion the impact.

Both GEC and the MoD believe Phoenix will have great potential in export markets if it can be made to work. But GEC's credibility as a prime contractor is once more at stake. The company has already been blamed for the failure of the Nimrod early warning system eight years ago, abandoned after costing £300 million, and delays in developing the Foxhunter radar system for Tornado fighters.

Pennington, page 25

## Barings 'discussed Leeson in January'

By PATRICIA TEBAN AND ARTHUR LEATHLEY

BARINGS executives discussed how to handle the activities of Nick Leeson a month before the bank's collapse, according to internal Barings documents released to MPs yesterday.

The minutes of an internal Barings Assets and Liability Committee (ALC) meeting on Friday, January 27, reveal that the bank was aware of some of its trading by Mr Leeson, who ran up huge losses and caused the collapse.

The documents, which destroy any suggestions that Barings was ignorant of the risk Mr Leeson's activities posed, were released to the Treasury Select Committee as it quizzed Eddie George, the Governor of the Bank of England, on the Bank's role in the collapse. Mr George admitted

that Barings had not told the Bank, as it was compelled to by law, that more than 25 per cent of its capital had been transferred overseas.

The executives at the meeting - Geoffrey Barnett, Geoffrey Broadhurst, Tony Hawes, the treasurer, Richard Katz, George Maclean, head of banking, and Peter Norris, head of investment banking - discussed their concerns about some of the Leeson positions.

Their strategy was to order Mr Leeson to limit his trading immediately. "There should be no increase in the Nikkei position beyond this level," the minutes said. "He should look for opportunities to cut the position. He may increase his Japanese government bond/Euroyen position up to an agreed amount of available initial margin. His

## Accountants plan merger to form larger joint body

By ROBERT BRUCE

PLANS to create a new UK accounting body dominated by accountants in business and industry have been unveiled.

The Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales and the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants would both cease to exist and a new body, whose name is still the subject of intense negotiation, would be created.

It could comprise 140,000 accountants, of which 90,000 would be in industry and business. Existing members of the old bodies would retain their present titles but new members as they qualified would be designated either as chartered accountants, or as chartered management ac-

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## Barclays chairman joins the £500,000 club

By PATRICIA TEBAN BANKING CORRESPONDENT

ANDREW BUXTON, chairman of Barclays Bank, joined the elite band of directors earning more than £500,000 a year in 1994, with an 18.6 per cent pay rise to £523,000.

Mr Buxton also made a paper profit of £135,149 after exercising options on 55,389 shares, according to the bank's annual report, sent out to shareholders yesterday.

The highest-paid director was David Band, chief executive of BZW, Barclays' investment banking arm. His pay actually fell by 45 per cent to £776,000 from £1.4 million, after BZW profits more than halved to £42

million. As a result, his bonus was halved to £300,000, and the allocation of Barclays shares to him under the bank's long-term share scheme fell from £80,000 to £240,000.

Barclays' next highest-paid director last year was Martin Taylor, the chief executive, who received a total of £710,000, including a £500,000 basic salary and a bonus of £169,000. The salary and a guaranteed £150,000 bonus included a guaranteed £19,000 bonus for his first year and £19,000 from the staff profit-sharing scheme.

The report also showed that Mr Taylor was paid £204,000 in 1993, comprising £24,000 fees in November and December 1993 while he was in his old job at Courtaulds Textiles, and £180,000 compensation for Courtaulds

Textiles share-options that were bought out by Barclays.

Oliver Stocken, the finance director, saw his total pay fall from £439,000 in 1993, when he was on a BZW contract, to £362,000 last year. His basic salary has been increased from £190,000 to £250,000 this year, when he moved onto a Barclays contract.

A Barclays spokeswoman said: "In 1994 the Barclays group achieved record profitability and the strongest balance sheet for more than 10 years. The remuneration committee felt that this should be reflected in the remuneration of executive directors." The bank has shown the pay of individual directors in its annual report for the first time.

Barclays saw its profits increase 181 per cent last year to £1.86 billion. Unlike NatWest, Barclays has not shown how much it pays each of its non-executives. Sir Denis Henderson, chairman of ICI, who chairs the remuneration committee, and Sir Nigel Mobbs, chairman and chief executive of Slough Estates, who chairs Barclays' audit committee, are likely to be among the higher-paid non-executives. The highest-paid non-executive director received between £60,001 and £65,000.

The total emoluments of all directors fell by 18 per cent last year to £3.729 million, mostly as a result of lower bonuses. However, their basic salaries increased by 9 per cent to £1.79 million.

## DTI to help ailing firms

By ROBERT MILLER

AILING companies are to be given a 28-day breathing space to try to save their businesses and protect as many jobs as possible under government proposals published yesterday. Banks and other lenders will no longer be able to pull the rug from under borrowers without giving five days' written notice.

Under the terms of the new rescue plan, directors of a company in financial difficulty will be able to approach an insolvency practitioner for advice on whether it is feasible to save the business. If the practitioner believes there is a reasonable prospect of putting together a rescue plan and adequate funding is available then documents can be filed in court. The 28-day moratorium will begin immediately.

The proposals, put forward by the Trade Department, were flagged in November's Budget when Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, said: "During the recent recession businesses, and particularly small ones, were too often being closed down by their creditors and jobs lost before rescue options had been properly explored."

Announcing a final consultation period on the proposals in Parliament, Jonathan Evans, Corporate Affairs Minister, said: "This will give companies in financial difficulty temporary protection from their creditors during which they could put together a rescue plan for agreement by creditors. The scheme also proposes various safeguards to protect lenders and other creditors and to discourage abuse."

During the moratorium, directors will be allowed to manage their businesses but only under supervision of an insolvency practitioner. Provided creditors agree, the temporary protection can be extended for a further two months.

The Society said it would be seeking further clarification from the DTI on the precise level of supervision required.

## BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES		
FT-SE 100	3190.2	(+2.1)
Yield	4.27%	
FT-SE All share	1550.78	(+1.88)
Nikkei	15882.48	(+251.96)
New York		
Dow Jones	4198.19	(-2.42)
S&P Composite	504.77	(-0.47)
US RATE		
Federal Funds	6%	(8%)
Long Bond	100%	(102%)
Yield	7.37%	(7.38%)
LONDON MONEY		
3-month Interbank	6%	(6%)
Little long gilt	103%	(103%)
Future (June)		
STERLING		
New York	1.8070*	(1.8070)
London	1.8179	(1.8005)
S	2.2150	(2.2124)
DM	7.7790	(7.7510)
FF	1.8168	(1.8174)
Sfr	139.25	(138.21)
Yen	88.2	(88.15)
£ Index	84.7	(84.6)
DOLLAR		
London	1.3810*	(1.3780)
DM	1.1329*	(1.1320)
FF	1.1329*	(1.1305)
Sfr	86.25*	(86.15)
Yen	88.2	(88.4)
£ Index	88.39	
NORTH SEA OIL		
Brent 15-day (Jun)	\$17.50	(\$17.25)
GOLD		
London close	\$382.25	(\$381.80)
* denotes midday trading price		

## Co-op cheer

The Co-operative Bank cheered the banking sector yesterday after accompanying record annual profits with a promise to its 3,500 clerical staff that there would be no compulsory redundancies for at least two years as part of a new pay package.

Page 24

## ShareLink bid

Charles Schwab, America's biggest retail stockbroker firm, is extending its presence in the United Kingdom with a recommended offer for ShareLink Investment Services, valuing the Birmingham-based telephone share dealing group at £39.7 million.

Page 25, Tempus 26



# Jobs pledge as Co-op Bank sets record profits

By ROBERT MILLER

CO-OPERATIVE BANK yesterday celebrated record annual profits by promising its 3,500 clerical staff that there would be no compulsory redundancies for at least two years as part of a new pay package.

The Co-op Bank jobs deal was welcome news for the banking sector and comes just days after a leading banker predicted that one in five bank workers would lose jobs in the next few years. Sir Brian Pitman, chief executive of Lloyds Bank, estimated that 75,000 jobs would go, on top of the 90,000 lost since 1989. But Terry Thomas, managing director of the Co-op Bank, which announced a 55 per cent increase in pre-

tax profits to £27.5 million for 1994, believes that Sir Brian has underestimated the scale of banking job losses. He predicts they could be nearer to 150,000.

Mr Thomas said: "There will be a massive shake-out between now and the turn of the century, but it could happen even sooner. The present number of bank branches cannot be sustained because who's going to pay for them? Certainly not the customer. And if they are asked to pay, then it will be good news for us as they could switch to our telephone banking service which is open 24-hours a day, 365 days a year."

The Co-op Bank, which has nearly 140 branches, has shed 1,000 jobs since 1990. But

after yesterday's guarantee of no compulsory redundancies, Mr Thomas added that the bank might recruit more staff if present business trends continued. The jobs promise, however, will not extend to the bank's senior management. Mr Thomas said: "We've got to perform or we are out, and if the staff fail, that is our fault, not theirs."

Bifu, the banking, insurance and finance union, welcomed the Co-op Bank's 1994 figures and said that the bank's pledge to its staff came at a time when most of the major banks were closing high street branches to boost profits even further. Geoff Luton, the union's assistant secretary, added: "Cutting outlets means cutting service. The Co-operative Bank has proved

that this is not the way to run a business."

Mr Thomas said the bank's ethical stance, which rejects business customers who do not measure up to a set of standards, led to further new accounts being opened in both the personal and corporate sectors. He added: "Many charities and voluntary organisations brought substantial deposits to the bank with total average retail deposits up 19 per cent year-on-year."

The Co-op Bank's operating income rose 5 per cent to £238 million while bad debt provisions fell £6.5 million to £32 million. The bank's "Free for Life" Visa Gold card last year became the most widely available of its kind throughout Europe.

## Exports boost Laird to record £48m

LAIRD GROUP, the automotive components and industrial products company, saw underlying profits rise 44 per cent to a record £47.7 million last year on the economic recovery in continental Europe. The group beat the forecast it set at its rights issue last November by £1.7 million on 18 per cent higher turnover of £734 million during the year with £20 million of the growth coming from acquisitions. Laird said demand for its plastic mouldings and cables for computers had been particularly strong. The window and door component manufacturing business also performed particularly well.

The company is paying a final 6.9p dividend, making 11.3p for the year, a rise of 6 per cent, payable on June 9. Laird's rights issue last year brought in £68 million for further investment and the group ended the year with net cash of £20.6 million. Laird invested £37.8 million in new plant during 1994 and has just signed a new £100 million seven-year loan for future development. *Tempus*, page 26

## Reg Vardy pays £15m

REG VARDY, the motor distributor, announced the acquisition of nine car dealerships for £15.34 million yesterday. The acquisition includes six dealerships owned by Automotive & Financial Group (AFG), formerly controlled by Octav Botnar, and now owned by the Barclay twins, Frederick and David. Vardy is also acquiring three BMW dealerships from Graham Goodman for £9.45 million. The AFG acquisition, comprising dealerships in Scotland and the North, is valued at £5.9 million. Separately, AFG announced a restructuring of its business, which includes 47 outlets nationwide, and a change of name to Caledonia Motor Group.

## GM to sell rental group

GENERAL MOTORS is to sell National Car Rental System for an estimated \$1 billion. The car hire franchise, which includes Europcar Interrent and Murray's Rent-a-Car in Britain, will be owned by a group of investors led by William Loback, the former president of Chrysler's car rental division. The sale is part of GM's strategy to refocus on its car and truck making divisions and divest non-core businesses. National had been losing money when GM acquired a 45 per cent stake in 1988, and, subsequently, full ownership. In recent years, executives say, it has made healthy profits. National will retain its 6,400 staff, and its contract to buy its rental fleet from GM.

## Vision valued at £30m

VISION GROUP, the specialist cameras maker, will be valued at about £30 million when it comes to the stock market via a placing of shares later this month. Based in Edinburgh, the company is raising £4.5 million to finance expansion. The shares, priced at 77p, begin trading on April 12. In 1994 the company incurred losses of £722,000 on turnover of £1.15 million, reflecting development costs. The placing is sponsored by Albert E. Sharp, the broker. Meanwhile, shares in Coral Products are being placed at 60p, valuing the video cassette boxes maker at £9.2 million. The company will raise £1.59 million, mainly to repay bank borrowings.

## More cuts at C&J Clark

THE continuing reorganisation of C&J Clark, the privately owned footwear company, cost a further £8.4 million in 1994 after costs of £6.6 million in 1993. Roger Pedder, chairman, said the cutbacks will continue this year as action is taken to deal with excess production capacity and high costs. The latest charge held back profits before tax for the year at £19.4 million, compared with £20.8 million previously. But the company is lifting the annual dividend by 15 per cent, with a second interim dividend of 3.5p a share making a total of 6.5p. At the trading level, profits edged forward to £31.9 million from £30.5 million.

## Clydeport advances

CLYDEPORT, the former Clyde Port Authority, which secured a stock market listing last September, expects to spend £3.2 million on environmental improvements this year after last year's investment of £1.2 million at Glasgow and Greenock, Strathclyde. In 1994, profits were £5.6 million before tax, rising from £2.45 million. They were bolstered by a £1.45 million gain on the sale of 232 acres at Braehed, Glasgow, for retail development. Earnings were 11.16p a share, compared with 5.63p. A final dividend of 1p a share, in line with the flotation forecast, makes a notional total of 3.5p. The shares, offered at 133p, rose 2p to 173p yesterday.

## CCR buys Nachos

CITY CENTRE RESTAURANTS (CCR) is acquiring the Nachos chain of Mexican restaurants, all located in London, from New York New York for £5.4 million. CCR expects the business to contribute profits of £600,000 in its first year of ownership, trading alongside the company's existing Chiquito operation. CCR, whose interests also include the Garfunkels and Caffé Uno restaurants, reported a rise in profits to £14.1 million before tax in 1994 from £12.6 million previously. Earnings were 5.01p a share, (4.52p). The final dividend of 1.5p a share, due June 8, makes a total of 2p (1.78p).

## Cordiant raises \$40m in US

CORDIANT, the advertising agency formerly known as Saatchi & Saatchi, has sold the Minneapolis offices of Campbell Mithun Esty Inc (CME) to Interpublic, the American agency, for \$40 million.

The sale will result in a loss on disposal of about £13 million through the write-off of goodwill, but will help to reduce Cordiant's bank debt.

CME's offices in New York, Houston and continental Europe have already been absorbed in the Cordiant group. Only its British agency operates as a stand-alone business. In 1994 CME's Minneapolis businesses generated revenues of \$52 million.

Bank	Buy	Sell
Australia	2.27	2.10
Austria	14.5	14.14
Belgium	46.49	44.38
Canada	2.540	2.180
Cyprus	0.75	0.698
Denmark	9.40	8.60
France	7.46	6.50
Germany	8.25	7.59
Germany Dm	2.38	2.17
Greece	57.00	52.00
Hong Kong	13.04	12.04
Ireland	1.05	0.97
Italy	5.085	4.652
Japan	2845.00	2680.00
Spain	153.50	137.50
Sweden	0.80	0.64
Netherlands	2.641	2.411
Norway	10.28	9.273
Portugal	240.00	220.00
S. Africa	ref.	5.34
Switzerland	270.00	197.00
Sweden	12.35	11.25
Switzerland	1.56	1.78
Turkey	1.00	0.80
USA	1.701	1.571

Notes for annual denotation bank normally as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

## THE TIMES

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## Increase in unit labour costs alarms CBI

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

BUSINESS leaders have urged industry to take action to increase productivity and control the cost of employment in the light of new pay figures which, while showing settlements falling back, suggest that unit labour costs are rising.

Ministers, industry and pay analysts will study closely the latest figures from the Confederation of British Industry's pay databank, which suggest that pay awards in manufacturing and the service sector are slipping back. Though latest government earnings figures showed a similar movement, other independent pay surveys have suggested that wage deals are still rising.

The CBI said its survey of settlements showed that in the three months to the end of February, pay deals in manufacturing were provisionally running at 2.9 per cent. This compares with 3 per cent in the three months to January, and with the peak of 3.2 per cent in the three months to the end of November. Manufacturers say that their inability to increase prices is the main downward pressure on pay.

The CBI said pay deals in the service sector are falling back even more sharply, dropping to 3.2 per cent in the first quarter of this year, against 3.8 per cent in the final three months of 1994. Taking the two sectors together, the databank shows that nearly two-thirds of all deals are at or below 3 per cent, with a fifth running at 3.1 to 4 per cent.

But in spite of the pay figures, the CBI last night issued a warning about rising unit labour costs. It said they had started to move up while they were still falling in all Britain's major competitor countries, because in Britain the rate of increase in manufacturing productivity had fallen and was now being outstripped by rises in earnings.

Speaking after a meeting of the confederation's governing council, CBI leaders confirmed their opposition to Labour's plan for a statutory national minimum wage, but said that they are carrying out a fresh study to examine its impact on jobs and pay differentials.

The CBI said it was not convinced about the principle of a minimum wage, although its leaders indicated that they might well look more favourably on a minimum wage set at a level aimed at relieving real poverty. However, adjustment of in-work benefits might be a more appropriate solution.

CBI leaders welcomed Labour moves, signalled this week by Harriet Harman, Shadow Employment Secretary, suggesting Labour is ready to modify its plans for a compulsory training levy. Pay increases for managers are rising, a new survey suggests. The Reward survey of senior pay shows that though pay increases for managers in the year to February averaged 2.8 per cent, the level of increase in the last four months is 3.2 per cent.

## Seagram may buy into Hollywood

By ERIC REGULY

SEAGRAM, the spirits group, is expected to announce the sale of its stake in Du Pont, North America's biggest chemical producer, for about \$10 billion today. The speculation, not denied by Seagram, is that it will use the cash to buy a majority stake in MCA, the Hollywood studio that made *Jurassic Park* and *Schindler's List*.

An insider has confirmed that Du Pont will buy back 164 million shares — or 24.4 per cent of Du Pont — that have been held by Seagram since the early 1980s. The announcement is likely to follow today's meeting of Du Pont's board of directors.

The cost is not known, although the shares are expected to be bought at the current market price. Du Pont

traded yesterday at \$62½, up \$1¼. Seagram was at \$28½, down ¼.

The sale will eliminate Seagram's single biggest source of earnings. Dividend and equity income from Du Pont typically account for more than half Seagram's net income, which totalled \$736 million in its latest financial year.

Edgar Bronfman Jr., chief executive of Seagram, engineered the purchase of 15 per cent of Time Warner, America's leading media conglomerate, in 1992. Buying MCA, which includes Universal Pictures, Universal Television and Geffen Records, could trigger a long-anticipated restructuring of Hollywood, which is now dominated by foreign investors.



Far reaching: Christopher Cook, left, and Christopher Brown saw exports rise 72 per cent

## Export lift for David Brown

By CARL MORTISHED

EXPORTS are driving up profits at David Brown, the gears and hydraulics maker.

Overseas sales account for the majority of David Brown's revenue with exports up 72 per cent, largely because of success in securing work on capital projects in America and the Far East.

The company, which has joint chief executives in Christopher Brown and Christopher Cook, shrugged off restructuring costs at a new subsidiary and boosted profits 15 per cent to £12.5 million, in spite of a flat UK market.

The weak demand and the restructuring of Hamworthy, the transmissions business acquired in 1993, caused operating margins to fall two points last year.

Brown's order book in January surged to £116 million from £67 million in the previous year. Derek Kingsbury, chairman, said that margins were still constrained by market forces, although integration of the new businesses would bring improvement from efficiencies. The company is raising the dividend 8 per cent to 6.9p.

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## Privatised water pours on cost

By OUR BUSINESS STAFF

PRIVATE companies charge substantially more for delivering water to the tap than public water authorities in the UK, while salaries and operating profits have surged in the private sector.

A report published today by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (Cipfa) says private English and Welsh water companies have higher operating costs for water provision and sewerage services than their local authority-run counterparts in Scotland and Northern Ireland.

In England and Wales, where 10 privatised water authorities joined 21 existing private water companies in 1989, a cubic metre of water delivered to the tap cost up to 73p in the year to March 31, 1994. In Scotland, where local authorities run water supply, the same volume cost 16p.

Private companies' operating profits have risen by more than 50 per cent since privatisation. Some directors' salaries have increased several times over. The European Union's more exacting standards of water purity and sewage treatment have been used to justify higher charges. However,

Cipfa figures show that total spending on UK sewerage systems fell by 14.6 per cent, after adjusting for inflation, between 1990-91 and 1993-94.

While Scotland scored well on low-cost water supply, public authorities there recorded both the lowest costs for removing sewage in the UK and, with charges of up to £58 per person, the highest. Northern Ireland charged £22.

Peter Vass, research director at Cipfa's Centre for the Study of Regulated Industries, said that factors such as geography and varying rainfall "can explain much of the reported variation in costs". But he acknowledged widespread concern at the levels of profitability achieved by some private companies. "The regulator (Ofwat) is now looking to companies to share increased profits between customers and shareholders," he said.

Last year, voters in Strathclyde overwhelmingly rejected privatising their water services. The Scottish Office, like the Northern Ireland Office, is now seeking private capital through the Government's Private Finance Initiative to fund improvements.

## OFT action sought over debt advice

By LAZ DOLAN

THE Consumers Association has urged the Office of Fair Trading to look into the conduct of Union Finance, a Southend-on-Sea company that claims to have helped more than 1,000 homebuyers with negative equity.

The association says Union Finance is charging borrowers £300 a piece for information that is misleading.

An association researcher who asked the company for help with solving her £14,000 negative equity was advised to hand in the keys to the flat and walk away. She was told the debt would be covered by a special insurance policy (a mortgage indemnity guarantee, or MIG), taken out when she and her husband bought the flat.

But a QC told the association that the policy covered the lender for any shortfall. It did not allow the borrower to renege on the debt. Paul Kitchen, senior editor of *Which?*, said: "There are ways to tackle some of the problems of negative equity, but giving £300 plus VAT to Union Finance is not one of them. The legal loophole it claims to have discovered probably doesn't exist."

## Morag Preston looks at the track's potential

## Brands Hatch changes driver

BRANDS Hatch Leisure, the motor racing operator and owner of the famous race track, was bought by Apex Partners, the venture capitalists, yesterday for £15.5 million.

The natural amphitheatre that was once Brands Hatch farm was first used by cyclists in 1926 for racing. In 1964, Jim Clark in his Lotus 25 won the first Grand Prix there. For years it alternated as the venue of the Formula One Grand Prix with Silverstone, before Nigel Mansell won the last Brands Hatch Grand Prix in 1986.

Nicola Foulston, 27, will continue as managing director. Her father, John Foulston, a self-made computer millionaire and racing fanatic, bought Brands Hatch, Snetterton and Oulton Park for £5.25 million in 1986. He was killed at Silverstone the following year. Miss Foulston was appointed commercial director of Brands, and in 1990 was made chief executive.

Jon Moulton, director of Apex Partners, sees potential for continued growth through subsidiary projects. Miss



The way it was: Graham Hill on a test run at Brands Hatch in 1967

Foulston's ambition is to lure the British Grand Prix back to the track. This is an opportunity for business to roar away. The Brands Hatch Leisure Group, funded by £8 million from Apex Partners and a £7.5 million facility from the Bank of Scotland, is the largest promoter of motorsport in Europe. During 1995, the three original tracks, plus

driving schools, test facilities for manufacturers, and pop concerts. This is an opportunity for business to roar away.

The Brands Hatch Leisure Group, funded by £8 million from Apex Partners and a £7.5 million facility from the Bank of Scotland, is the largest promoter of motorsport in Europe. During 1995, the three original tracks, plus

Caldwell Park in Norfolk, will host 162 events.

The buy-in is being led by Adrian Chambers, from Europa Freight Corporation, and Peter Rickitt, from Rickitt Mitchell & Partners, the corporate finance boutique. Mr Chambers is a former racing driver and Mr Rickitt enjoys thrashing his Aston Martin round Oulton Park.

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Two Dogs to



THE TIMES THURSDAY APRIL 6 1995

□ The case for Cabinet quarantine □ The City fights its patch □ GEC's credibility on the line

# Who minds the ministers?

IN a week that saw two Members of Parliament escape with mild slaps on the wrist after being found willing to accept extraneous payments, it would seem perverse for the National Audit Office to persecute a humble peer of the realm for seeking to earn an honest crust. Lord Wakeham, architect of the privatisation of the energy industry, was merely following in the footsteps of Lords Tebbit and Young and Sir Peter Walker in hooking up with an employer he had previously done business with during his spell in office.

Lord Wakeham, as part of his brief to bring wider ownership and financial discipline to the publicly owned energy sector, sold the electricity industry for some orders of magnitude less than it was worth, with the help of Rothschild. He then went on largely to obliterate the British coal industry, and it is this last achievement that has been brought to the notice of Sir John Bourn at the NAO. Sir John has well, not quite said that he will act, but indicated that he might be prepared to consider looking at acting, and so forth, after sterling opposition from Stephen Byers.

When Lord Wakeham distinguishes himself from his predecessors in the involvement of his new employers at NM Rothschild with the task he

set them had not ended when he climbed on board. The Rothschild taxi meter, which started ticking in 1991 when the bank embarked on privatising British Coal, ticks yet and will until the last asset is sold, and an expensive fare it has proved.

Mr Byers is also worried about the way the job was handed to Rothschild. The Government is not saying if the bank put in the lowest bid, which is pretty conclusive evidence that it did not. It is inconceivable that Lord Wakeham, all those years ago, pushed the job Rothschild's way in the hope of what is, by City standards, a fairly modest salary now. Indeed, given the sheer number of former senior politicians and civil servants cluttering up the expensive dining rooms at New Court, his eventual arrival there was probably a racing certainty whatever he did at the Department of Energy.

Sir John's acknowledgement of Mr Byers' efforts is couched in tones that suggest eventual action may be limited. All he has said is that his inquiry into coal privatisation indeed includes the appointment of advisers. But his

intervention serves to throw a welcome spotlight on an area of public life that continues to cause much disquiet.

It also makes all the more relevant the suggestion made to the Nolan Committee by a brace of top Tories earlier this year that the way around such embarrassments in future might be a two-year quarantine between a minister's departure and his arrival at his new post. In Lord Wakeham's particular case, for the sake of argument, this two-year period might be deemed to start to run whenever Rothschild's eventually finishes the mammoth task he has set them.

## Paving anytown's steets with gold

THE CITY Corporation is becoming ever more active in its attempts to persuade any incoming Labour government to leave it alone, along with the industry it represents. Michael Cassidy, the corporation's policy chairman, concedes: "We are getting more uncomfortable about being the scapegoat". After the LSE's



City Research Project, which examined London's strength and virtues as a world financial centre, John Kay's London Economics has been commissioned to convince a sceptical nation that the City is good for British industry too. The Project was trailed round the world in a jetter roadshow, but was undermined by BZW moving to Docklands, a subject of near paranoia round Cullindale. The Lord Mayor will hawk the new eighth part study round the provinces in a progress worthy of William Cobbett.

Judging from the first paper, on company formation and financing, Mr Kay will be at his most skilful. Taking the usual adverse comparison with

Germany head-on, he argues that Britain's lack of that dense Mittelstand of manufacturing companies credited with Germany's better economic performance is nothing to do with lack of finance. So many more financing options are open to British firms that they grow faster into big firms or are taken over by them or could finance themselves. Hence, according to London Economics, the dearth of medium-sized firms is the mirror image of Britain's strength in bigger companies.

Of the world's 500 largest companies, by sales, 41 are UK-based and 32 German, although the German economy is twice as big. The difference would be greater by value. And there are six times as many quoted companies in the UK. The structure of business is therefore affected by the easier availability of equity finance, from management buyout to rights issue, but if firms prefer long-term and fixed-interest borrowing, that is plentiful here too now that inflation has eased.

Possibly. But even New Lab-

our will be hard to convince that Britain will be better off if yet more financial power is concentrated in the Square Mile.

## Heat is on for the Phoenix

HOW is it that GEC can build a sophisticated head-up display unit for America's F16 and F22 fighters, yet be unable to make a spy plane that can land without damage?

On any Sunday afternoon over the South Downs, the air is abuzz with small, remote controlled planes performing acrobatics. The same planes, the same enthusiastic owners, week after week. Such reliability has so far eluded the Phoenix, an eight-foot spy aircraft developed by GEC-Marconi to direct the army's rockets and artillery shells to their targets. The high-tech elements of the machine perform outstandingly. But GEC has so far failed to get all this delicate machinery back to earth without breaking it. The company's Heath Robinson answer, in the shape of a modified car airbag, is

now in hand. Yet it is astonishing that both the Ministry of Defence and GEC could allow a £230 million, fixed price contract to fall six years behind schedule, and still not perform to specification.

Leading edge defence contracts are invariably challenging. Victory in battle today depends upon development of costly weapons systems that outperform existing technologies controlled by the enemy. In any industry that uses cutting edge technology, some projects are going to struggle or even fail.

Yet to win its own battles with rival contractors, and make a profit on fixed-price programmes, GEC must sharpen its management. Phoenix must rise from its own ashes. GEC's credibility as well as its cash depends upon it.

## Merger accounting

DEVELOPING a name for the merged ICAEW/CIMA certainly taxed ingenuity at the English Institute's dinner last night. "Tomorrow the World" might fit the mood. The proper ambition to be "world-class", ditching domestic jealousies, unfortunately recalls a slogan used by ICI for a great leap forward that left it split into two smaller companies. But if the ICAEW's members vote for this merger, anything is possible.

# Americans make £39m agreed bid for ShareLink

BY PHILIP PANGALOS

CHARLES SCHWAB, America's biggest retail stockbroking firm, is extending its presence in the United Kingdom with a recommended offer for ShareLink Investment Services, valuing the Birmingham telephone share dealing group at £39.7 million.

Schwab is offering 235p a share, which compares poorly with ShareLink's 1993 float price of 250p. There is a full lean note alternative and ShareLink directors have given 14.54 per cent irrevocable undertakings to accept the bid, made by Morgan Stanley.

ShareLink is Britain's biggest private investor dealing service, with 600,000 customers and a 15 per cent share of the UK's execution-only private client business. However, it has been hit by the recent slump in trading volumes.

ShareLink shares, which had rallied after the company said that it was in talks that

could lead to an offer, jumped 19p to 232p on the bid confirmation, but have seen mixed fortunes since the company was floated in 1993 at 250p. The shares traded above £4 in late 1993 and early last year, but initial euphoria, driven by healthy business levels on the back of privatisation issues, soon faded as depressed market conditions took a grip.

The shares slumped after the early bear market prompted a profit warning last September, and stock market prices fell in volatile and competitive conditions. In November, depressed market conditions and low investor confidence saw ShareLink suffer a pre-tax loss of £468,000 in the six months to September 30 (£368 million profit). It made a £500,000 pre-tax loss in the year to March 31, and will give up-to-date details of performance in the offer document.

ment to be sent to shareholders.

The proposed deal will reap further rewards for David Jones, ShareLink's founder and chief executive, who has a 14 per cent, £5.4 million stake. Charles Schwab, Schwab's chairman, will become ShareLink chairman, with Mr Jones retaining his post.

Mr Jones said: "The entry of ShareLink into the UK securities industry revolutionised the way in which private investors bought and sold shares. I am confident that our partnership with Schwab will enable us to develop further our market position and take advantage of the significant opportunities available... We had to look at the future issues facing the company. Markets are becoming more volatile and there is a tremendous amount of change in the UK industry."

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Praying profits: Sherwood Group, the garment and lace manufacturer, remained optimistic about future prospects in spite of reporting its first fall in profits since it floated on the stock market in 1986. Jim Telfer, above, is managing

director of the group whose pre-tax profits fell to £15.1 million from £18.5 million in the year to December 31 on sales of £166.1 million, up from £152.6 million. David Parker, chairman, described it as a year of reorganisation

and consolidation and said that actions taken to improve efficiency would produce benefits in 1995. A final dividend of 2.05p, compared with 1.9p, brings the total payout to 3.2p (2.9p). Shareholders will be paid on May 25.

# Investment pays off at Hewden

BY MARTIN BARROW

INVESTMENT in modern machinery at the height of the recession has paid off at Hewden Stuart, the plant-hire group. Yesterday the company reported a rise in 1994 pre-tax profits to £34.79 million from £19.15 million in the previous year.

Hewden Stuart embarked on a programme of investment in autumn 1993, placing substantial orders for equipment for delivery throughout 1994 and into 1995.

Although the new equipment was not fully operational for the 12-month period, turnover in hire operations increased 33.2 per cent to £168 million last year.

Last year alone the company incurred capital expenditure of £68 million, which was financed from working capital.

Earnings per share rose to 3.325p from 2.9p. The final dividend of 2.5p a share, which is due to be paid July 12, makes a total of 3.325p compared with 2.9p. The shares rose 6p to 169p.

## Nobo shares slide after warning

SHARES in Nobo Group slumped to 148p from 209p after the supplier of office equipment warned that profits for the year to the end of April would fall significantly below market expectations (Martin Barrow writes).

The company blamed a sharp downturn in trading by its largest subsidiary over the past two months and higher input costs. The collapse in the share price, despite the company's pledge to maintain its final dividend - reduced Nobo's market capitalisation by £11 million to just £26 million.

Granville Davies, the company's own broker, has reduced profit forecasts for the year to the end of April 1995 and April 1996 by £1 million to £2.7 million and £3.5 million respectively.

## Aegis returns to Britain and profit

BY MARTIN WALLER

AEGIS, the media combine for much of this decade in French hands, has returned to the black in 1994 in spite of continuing restructuring costs from its financial rescue over the past three years.

Provisions for restructuring of £11.4 million were well below the £60 million set aside over the previous two years. The provisions held pre-tax profits back to £20.1 million in 1994, but this compared with an £18.1 million loss in 1993.

Aegis is now firmly back in British control, to the extent that the City Takeover Panel has confirmed the group is governed by the Takeover Code, said Crispin Davis, the new chief executive.

Collins Rutherford Scott advertising agency, was domiciled in France, the Panel said the group did not come under its jurisdiction.

But Mr Davis, the new chief executive, said the relocation to London in February was part of the "normalisation" of Aegis, after a period in which the group's financial survival was in doubt.

Underlying profits were £27.4 million, but these included £3 million of write-backs from provisions taken earlier to cover losses in France that were not needed, said Mr Davis.

There is no dividend for 1994, and none in prospect this year. Underlying earnings per share were 2.5p (1.9p).

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## Merrydown launches alcoholic lemonade

# Two Dogs to invade UK

FROM RACHEL BRIDGE IN SYDNEY

MERRYDOWN, the Sussex cider maker, looks set to brew up a storm next month as it begins distributing Australia's favourite new drink, an alcoholic lemonade called Two Dogs in Britain.

Sales of Two Dogs, which tastes like a soft drink but contains 4.2 per cent alcohol, have rocketed in Australia since it went on the market seven months ago. It already uses up a third of South Australia's entire annual lemon crop and total sales are expected to hit £18 million this year. There have been howls of outrage, however, from anti-alcohol campaigners, who claim that it encourages underage drinking.

Two Dogs was created by

chance. Wondering what to do with an orchard full of unsaleable non-standard-size lemons, Duncan MacGillivray, a South Australian pub owner, decided to try brewing them. The result, after crushing whole lemons

and fermenting them, was his alcoholic lemonade.

Mr MacGillivray admits the success of Two Dogs surprised him. "I was going to be happy for it to be sold in my pub and my friends' pubs," he says. The name was

dreamt up in a drunken moment the night before the first keg was to go on sale.

The first 7,000 cases of Two Dogs are due to arrive in the UK next month, and will be distributed by Merrydown throughout the country.

A further 20,000 cases have been earmarked to meet demand over the summer and, if all goes well, Merrydown plans to begin producing the beverage at its site in Sussex from next year.

Mr MacGillivray admits that the British market is an important one for Two Dogs and says he wants to get his sales drive right first time. But what British drinkers will make of the whole idea remains to be seen.



This offer notice, which is published on 6 April 1995 in compliance with the requirements of The International Stock Exchange of the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland Limited ("the London Stock Exchange"), is issued in conjunction with the listing particulars dated 5 April 1995 ("the Listing Particulars") relating to Dumyat Investment Trust PLC ("the Company") which alone contain full details of the Company and the Ordinary Shares in the Company to be issued. Words and expressions defined in the Listing Particulars have the same meanings in this notice. Before deciding to apply for Ordinary Shares you should consider carefully whether they are a suitable investment for you. If you need advice, you should consult your own professional adviser. This offer notice has been approved by the London Stock Exchange pursuant to section 156(1) of the Financial Services Act 1986. Copies of the Listing Particulars are available from Amiable House, 150 St. Vincent Street, Glasgow G2 8NQ for a period of 14 days commencing the 6 April 1995.

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3. I/We attach a cheque or banker's draft made payable to "The Royal Bank of Scotland plc c/o Dumyat Offer", crossed "a/c Payee Only" for £

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4. For joint applications please complete the following.  
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FOURTH JOINT HOLDER  
Title: Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms/Other  
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Surname  
Permanent Address  
Postcode  
Signature

(If you have a financial adviser, you should consult him before investing)

## NOTES ON HOW TO COMPLETE THE APPLICATION FORM

All applicants must complete Boxes 1, 2, 3 and 4

1. PERSONAL DETAILS  
Fill in (in block capitals) in Box 1 the full name and address of the applicant. If this application is being made jointly with other persons, please read Note 6 before completing Box 1. For company applications, please give the registered name and number of the company.

2. APPLICATION TO DUMYAT INVESTMENT TRUST PLC  
Fill in (in figures) in Box 2 the number of ADS and/or MDS for which you wish to apply. The initial application must be for a minimum of 1,000 Ordinary Shares, and thereafter all applications must apply in multiples of 1 Ordinary Share.

3. AMOUNT PAYABLE  
Fill in (in figures) in Box 3 the total amount payable at 100p per Ordinary Share.

4. SIGNATURES  
The applicant named in Box 1 must date and sign Box 4. The Application Form may be signed by another person on your behalf if that person is duly authorised to do so under a power of attorney. The power of attorney (or a copy duly certified by a notary public or other official, whose representative capacity must be stated).

5. PAYMENT  
Pay a cheque or banker's draft at Box 5 for the exact amount shown in Box 3. Your cheque or banker's draft must be made payable to "The Royal Bank of Scotland plc c/o Dumyat Offer" and crossed "a/c Payee Only". Your payment must relate solely to this Offer and cannot be used for any other purpose. Your cheque or banker's draft must be drawn in sterling on an account as a bank branch in the United Kingdom, the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man and must have a cheque number in the top right hand corner. If you do not have a cheque account, you can obtain a cheque from your building society or bank branch. An application may be accompanied by a cheque hand counter. If you do not have a cheque hand counter, your application will be sent by post. The power of attorney (or a copy duly certified by a notary public) must be enclosed for inspection. Certifications for the Ordinary Shares, cheques and other correspondence will be sent to the address in Box 1.

6. JOINT APPLICANTS  
You may apply jointly with up to three other persons. Boxes 1, 2, 3 and 4 must be completed by one applicant. All other persons who wish to join in the application must complete and sign one of the forms at section 6. Another person may sign on behalf of any applicant if that other person is duly authorised to do so under a power of attorney. The power of attorney (or a copy duly certified by a notary public) must be enclosed for inspection. Certifications for the Ordinary Shares, cheques and other correspondence will be sent to the address in Box 1.



STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

# Big buyer of British Gas shares could be Hanson

REGULATORY worries appear to be a thing of the past at British Gas where the share price continues to make headway amid mounting market speculation that a stake building operation may be under way.

Yesterday the price, which has been trading close to its low for the year, advanced a further 3p to 299.4p during another bout of heavy turnover that saw almost 15 million shares change hands. It stretches the rise in the price during the past couple of days to 13p adding more than £500 million to the group's stock market price tag of £13 billion.

Dealers say Smith New Court, the broker, has been mopping up available stock for a big buyer. Word is that Hanson, the acquisitive industrial conglomerate controlled by Lord Hanson, may be building up a holding. But brokers are laughing at suggestions he may be planning a bid. They point to Gas's prospective yield of 6.3 per cent and say he may see it as a worthwhile investment offering a strong return over the next couple of years.

Hanson when it acquired a 3 per cent holding in ICI a few years ago, a move that eventually resulted in the demerger of Zeneca.

The rest of the equity market enjoyed another resilient performance with prices closing at a new high for the year having briefly breached the 3,200 level. However, prices closed below their best as a few profit-takers moved in after an uncertain start to trading on Wall Street and the end of the financial year.

The FT-SE 100 index, up almost 19 points at one stage, eventually saw its lead reduced to 2.1 at 3,190.2. Turnover was a healthy \$20 billion shares, although much of this was made up of last minute bid and breakfast transactions designed to establish year-end tax losses.

Standard Chartered was a weak market loser 9p at 285p after Tuesday's move by Lloyds Bank to place its entire 4.5 per cent holding. The speculators say the disposal crushed any lingering hopes of an eventual bid for the company.

There was renewed speculative support for Yorkshire Electricity with the price climbing 14p to 624p. Northern Electric the subject of an



David Jones, chief executive of ShareLink

abruptive bid recently by Trafalgar House, rose 6p to 765p. A group of dissident shareholders have called for an extraordinary meeting.

British Airways firmed up to 404p cheered by the latest passenger traffic figures showing a 6 per cent increase during March. The passenger load factor also grew by 1.6 points to a record 72.3 per cent.

Property shares suffered jitters last night amid claims from some brokers that the recovery in the sector may already be in the price. Dealers reported nervous selling by institutions, prompting falls in better-known names such as Hammerson, down 5p at 324p, Land Securities, 5p to 585p, and MEPC, 3p to 394p.

AAH continued to mark-time at 448p - 28p above the terms being offered by GEHE, the German pharmaceutical group. Dieter Kaemmerer, chairman of GEHE, yesterday hit back at claims that his company will have to substantially increase its £37 million offer if it wishes to win the deal.

He has written to AAH shareholders urging them to accept the offer which he

described as generous. He argued that the profit forecast made by AAH on March 17, underlined the group's existing problems and revealed new problems which raised serious concern about its underlying value.

Elsewhere on the bid front, ShareLink, the telephone operated private client stockbroker, jumped 19p to 232p after

and profits. ShareLink directors have already given undertakings to accept the offer in respect of their holdings totalling 16.4 per cent.

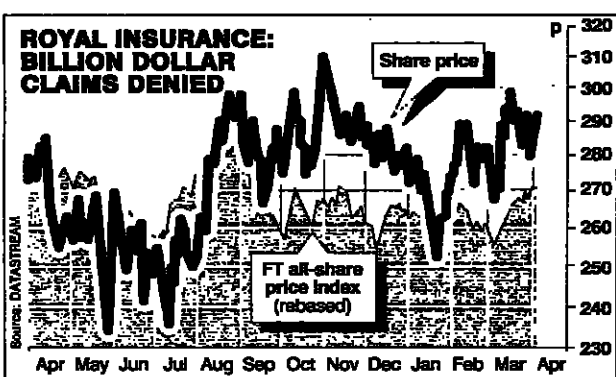
News of the deal also enabled another takeover favourite, Smith New Court, to rebound 18p to 438p. There has been speculation that SNC could find itself on the receiving end of a bid from the likes of Schroders. But some of the speculation has been blunted by worries that profits have been hit by low trading volume.

Royal Insurance advanced 9p to 252p and Commercial Union 7p to 54p after both companies denied a report by James Capel, the broker, that they faced the possibility of paying out billions of dollars. Capel said the companies would be liable for claims made over a number of years unless changes are made in US environmental protection laws or the balance of court decisions shifts in favour of the insurers. Capel had suggested that both Royal and CU had a higher risk of exposure to polluted US sites. Meanwhile, Warburg Securities, the broker, has reiterated its buy recommendations for both Royal and CU.

Nobo Group was a casualty on the day falling 6p to 148p after warning that profits for the current year were likely to fall significantly below market expectations. GILT EDGED: Trading conditions were described as thin with the Bank of England taking advantage of the market's recent robustness to issue further tranches of existing stock. This included £150 million of Treasury index-linked 2 1/2 per cent 2003 and £150 million of Treasury index-linked 2013.

In the futures pit the June series of the long gilt touched £102 1/2, before ending the session 1/4 firmer at £102 3/4. In the cash market interest was focused on the shorter dated stocks with Treasury 3 per cent 2000 firming three ticks to 98 1/2, while at the longer end Treasury 8 per cent 2013 was 97 1/2 higher at 96 7/8.

NEW YORK: Shares were mixed at midday with the bond market surrendering its early gains and profit-taking continuing in the technology sector. The Dow Jones industrial average was down 2.42 points at 4,199.19.



ROYAL INSURANCE: BILLION DOLLAR CLAIMS DENIED. Share price (rebased) from April to March.

## MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):  
Dow Jones 4199.19 (-2.42)  
S&P Composite 504.77 (-0.47)

Tokyo:  
Nikkei Average 15882.49 (+251.96)

Hong Kong:  
Hang Seng Closed

Amsterdam:  
EOE Index 397.83 (+1.02)

Sydney:  
AD 1982.4 (-46.1)

Frankfurt:  
DAX 1969.84 (+1.63)

Singapore:  
Straits 2101.16 (+27.11)

Brussels:  
General 6969.81 (+18.57)

Paris:  
CAC-40 1972.92 (-0.88)

Zurich:  
SIX Gen 579.80 (-2.30)

London:  
FT 30 3444.0 (+2.2)  
FT 100 3190.2 (-2.1)  
FT-Mid 330 345.5 (+0.5)  
FT-SE 250 1581.9 (+1.7)  
FT-SE 100 1267.4 (+0.1)  
FT-A All-Share 1560.78 (+1.28)  
FT Non Financials 1682.17 (+1.43)  
FT Fixed Interest 111.02 (+0.18)  
FT Govt Secs 91.08 (-0.15)  
Bespoke 4198  
SEAO Volume 630.3m  
USM (Daxim) 145.58 (+0.03)  
USM 140.03 (-0.03)  
German Mark 2.2189 (-0.0007)  
Exchange Index 947.1 (+0.1)  
Bank of England official rate (4pm) 1.1970  
LECU 1.0292  
RPI 146.9 Feb (3.4%) Jan 1987-100

Albright & Wilson (150) 165  
Beale 171  
Brit Aerospace Uts 123  
Colson 150  
Daily Mirror (128) 130  
Daimlerchrysler (130) 130  
Expro Ind (175) 174  
F&C (100) 100  
Gearing Inc Inv (100) 99  
Golden Rose Cms (135) 115  
HTR Inc/GH Split (100) 102  
Inv Capital Wts 18  
Inv Trst of Inv Trst 84  
Medwest Energy Wts 34  
Montrose UK Smir (44) 44  
ditto Wts 44  
Nat Power (p/p) (476) 169  
FIS Group (90) 92  
PowerGen (p/p) (512) 188  
Schroder Inc Gth Wts 520  
Scott Oriental Smir (100) 95  
Superframe Group (50) 40  
Superframe Wts 6  
Throg Dual Zero Div P 103  
Zetefoams (145) 174

Acorn Computer n/p (80) 57  
Acorn Int'l n/p (120p) 1  
Beaufort n/p (28) 1  
Guinness Pear n/p (20) 6  
Horace Smir App n/p (50) 37  
Marley n/p (112) 16  
Rhino Group n/p (8) 4  
TBI n/p (35) 2

RISSE:  
Mellor Benson 658p (+15p)  
Sharelink 232p (+18p)  
Smith New Court 438p (+18p)  
David Brown 232p (+12p)  
Nobo Group 148p (-6p)  
Scott 300p (-15p)  
Rag Vardy 168p (+10p)

FALLS:  
Nobo Group 148p (-6p)  
Marka Spencer 416p (-8p)

Closing Prices Page 29

## UNDER THE AEGIS OF DAVIS

FROM the sheer weight of the historical peroration accompanying 1994 figures for Aegis yesterday, it would seem that Europe's biggest media buyer and services group is trying to make a point. Investors should draw a line at about the arrival in October of Crispin Davis from United Distillers and disregard all that went before, it says.

Aegis is considerably smaller than WPP or Saatchi but has trod a similar *via dolorosa* after hefty over-expansion in the deal-happy 1980s. The group's own restructuring came a year before Mr Davis's entrance and a couple of years after the old WCRS advertising agency, which had formed the core of the group, had been cut loose.

Mr Davis's message is that the French who took control ahead of the imposition in their country of the *Loi Sapin* that severely dented

fixed costs and because ShareLink offers no expensive trimmings to its dealing service, it needs volume to turn revenue into profit.

But ShareLink has big plans for new and more profitable services and Schwab, boasting more financial muscle, initially offered a joint venture. But now Schwab is offering 235p

for a business valued by Hill Samuel less than two years ago at 250p. ShareLink will struggle to break even this year but Schwab is buying a market position on which it can build. If Schwab believed ShareLink's recent track record was a true reflection of prospects, it would not bid. Shareholders should ask for more.

SHAREHOLDERS in Laird Group who backed the group's rights issue last November have good reason to feel pleased. The shares now sit 17 per cent higher than the rights price, partly on the optimistic £47 million profit forecast published at the time, which Laird has now beaten by £1.7 million.

Organic growth always takes priority at Laird acquisitions and the company is now reaping the benefit from a heavy investment programme in the last five years, which has consumed £160 million. That programme, supplemented by the occasional acquisition, has given the group a far wider customer base, reducing its automotive business to 40 per cent of group profits. That process will continue since the remains of the rights money left Laird with net cash of £20.6 million at the year end.

In the current year, Laird's sealing systems division should prosper from the recovery in the European motor industry while three large new plants in Spain, the Czech Republic and the US will contribute for the first time. The shares, on 13 times historic earnings, still look good value.

THE weaker pound should prove a boon for UK exporters of components and capital goods and David Brown, which last year sold more cars and pumps abroad than at home, is ploughing deep furrows in overseas markets where manufacturers are feeling more expansive than their counterparts in the UK.

Brown supplies transmission systems for trains, tanks and forklift trucks as well as gears for machinery and pumps for the petrochemical industry. A late-cycle business, Brown needs industrial expansion to boost volumes and margins but despite the

rapid growth in GDP, the UK has been slow to respond. The business sectors Brown serves - rail, coal and power generating - are not expanding in the UK for political and other reasons.

Overseas, it is different. David Brown is getting orders from the Far East and the US. Last year margins were depressed due to the cost of relocating a factory, an expense which is already drawing benefits in sales per employee. Over the next two to three years, Brown's underperforming industrial transmission business should edge its margins up from last year's 3 per cent to double digits, which new products hit the market. With signs that mobile equipment makers, such as JCB, are seeing better times, Brown's UK prospects should improve but even without a domestic boom, Brown shares look cheap at 12 times this year's earnings.

EDITED BY NEIL BENNETT

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## COMMODITIES

LONDON COMMODITY EXCHANGE

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# THE TIMES

## CITY DIARY

### Exception to the rule

THE British are not really that good at putting their minds (or their tongues) around foreign languages. So it was rather appropriate that Richard Needham, Trade Minister, spoke fluent Italian before switching to English (he could have swung into German, or indeed into various Indian tongues) at yesterday's 1995 National Languages for Exports Awards. There were 268 entries from 176 companies, but that does not absolve the nation for being so foreign tongue tied. "We can all laugh at the room service menu in an Ethiopian hotel which promised 'emergency snakes available at all hours'," but the minister spoke of one survey that showed a horrifying 74 per cent of foreign language calls received by UK companies were abandoned at the switchboard. By contrast, in Europe a staggering 80 per cent of companies now offer language training to staff as a matter of course. But as Willy Brandt once said on a visit to London: "If I'm selling to you, I speak your language; if I'm buying from you... dann müssen Sie Deutsch sprechen."

### Stepping down

HE RETIRED from Barings last December, and in March was named by the Queen as High Sheriff of Hampshire, but Miles Rivett-Carnac has resigned as one of the six nominated members of the Council of Lloyd's on medical advice after a heart attack to reduce his business commitments.



"They even co-operate with the staff"

### Moving item

TWO months and three days after City Diary announced mining analyst Robert Davies was leaving Smith New Court for Barings comes an announcement from Barings that Davies is joining them from SNC. However, it very nearly wasn't so. Shortly after our item, Barings went bang. SNC gave him his old job back, but since ING saved Barings, Davies will be moving after all.

### On their bikes

LORD TEBBIT famously said "on yer bike", and in that vein and to raise funds for Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital, Graham Kemp, UK institutional salesman at Credit Lyonnais, and Stephen Butler, of Aspen Communications, are to cycle from Land's End to John O'Groats, starting Saturday. Kemp, one of those lunchtime City runners, would welcome financial pledges for his cause on 0177-214 5768.

### A sign of age?

LIKE policemen, general managers of The Savoy are getting younger. Herbert Strieming, 66, retires as GM at the end of the month. In comes Duncan Palmer — The Mandarin Oriental, Jakarta, and The Oriental, Bangkok. Palmer is 36 and, yes, as all good hoteliers would, he knows how to empty ashtrays, make beds and wash up.

COLIN CAMPBELL

## ECONOMIC VIEW

ANATOLE KALETSKY

# Britain failing to ask the right questions on Europe

Extreme Eurosceptics are simply playing into Eurofanatics' hands

Last week, I rashly promised to continue the discussion on Britain's place in the country's fraught relationship with Europe. However, to plan anything even a week ahead is rash when the world is in its present feverish state. When the dollar is falling by 5 per cent a week, ruining the long-term prospects for dozens of export industries in Europe and Asia, arguments about manipulating the sterling/mark exchange rate in 1999 seem rather academic. When the three most respected central banks in the world — the Bundesbank, the Federal Reserve Board and the Bank of Japan — prove incapable of conducting the most elementary exercise in international public relations without tripping over their own feet, it seems rather futile to rely on the sound judgment of a future European Central Bank, to be run by a similar cast of typical central bankers, but drawn from Belgium, Luxembourg and France. When the Cabinet is tearing itself apart over tame political broadcasts, hospital closures and any other issue that happens to hit the headlines, the hope that the Tory cancer might be surgically removed by settling the question of Europe becomes ludicrously far-fetched.

Why, then, bother to think about Europe, now that it is out of the headlines? Because some of the questions that need to be asked about Europe have important implications for the long-term future, and rarely seem to be asked.

I had long suspected that Britain was arguing about the wrong questions on Europe, but I had forgotten how detached from reality we had become until last weekend, when I attended the annual Anglo-German conference at Königswinter, near Bonn. Completely belying their country's reputation for down-to-earth pragmatism, the Britons have become the Cartesian rationalists, the abstract political model-builders of Europe. The British contingent at Königswinter were willing to discuss for hours the precise definition of federalism. The Germans claim that federalism is a form of political organisation that guarantees subsidiarity and decentralisation. But, pointed out the British, the constitutional textbooks in both languages agreed that federalism was an attribute of statehood. This clearly implied that the "federal Europe" advocated by the

Germans must, by definition, be a state. But such a state, being larger than any ordinary state in Europe, must *ipso facto* be a "super-state". Then there was Norman Lamont's syllogism on "the heart of Europe". John Major has repeatedly argued that Britain should be at the heart of Europe because Europe is becoming an ever more important world power. But everyone agrees that China is destined to grow even faster in importance than Europe. So why, asks Mr Lamont, should Britain not put itself at the heart of China?

Finally, there was the "German model" of economic management based on social partnership, stability-oriented monetary policy, strict financial regulation and the preponderance of unquoted family-owned companies. This economic model was enthusiastically commended to the Königswinter conference not by the Germans themselves but by numerous disciples of Will Hutton, the *Guardian* economic commentator whose book, *The State We're In*, has taken Britain by storm.

The Germans seemed rather perplexed by all this. They were almost too polite to point out that some of the

arrangements lauded by Mr Hutton were now being criticised in Germany for causing economic rigidity. Others show signs of unravelling — for example, many small companies are selling out to larger groups because of the breakup or decadence of the families that created them after the Second World War.

More striking still was the anxiety among German businessmen about monetary and exchange-rate policies pursued by the Bundesbank. Although the Bundesbank may still be Germany's most revered institution, I heard more reservations expressed about its judgment this time than on any previous visit to Germany — even in the depths of the recessions in 1983 and 1992. German politicians and businessmen may repeat for public consumption their slogan that "a strong mark is a good mark", but, in reality, the currency's unnatural strength is doing serious damage to Germany and the pain is starting to show.

One leading politician went so far as to suggest that a "security policy on currency questions" was now at least as important as the work of the

UN Security Council. Of course, the Germans realised that there was little hope at present of coordinating economic policy between Europe, America and Japan. But at least their interest in such global issues presented an impressive contrast to the British obsession with European institutions and intra-European problems.

The great irony of the Eurosceptic campaign to protect Britain from Euro-federalism struck me at this point. While British politicians argue about whether we should belong to one or other European institution, nobody asks what these institutions should actually do.

The clearest example arises over European Monetary Union. The question of whether Britain should participate in EMU (if it ever happened) should clearly depend on what the European Central Bank that will manage the currency union is trying to do. Should the ECB simply aim to achieve stable prices, or should it also be required to maintain a competitive exchange rate with America and Japan? And should it coordinate interest-rate decisions with national governments to ensure that the mix of monetary, fiscal and

structural policies across Europe allows adequate employment and non-inflationary growth?

These questions should have been debated at Maastricht, but were deliberately ignored, as Europe rushed into the arms of the Bundesbank. They should now head the agenda for the 1996 Inter-Governmental Conference. Yet nobody from Britain questioned the Maastricht convergence criteria or the statutes of the ECB in 1991 — and nobody will question them next year.

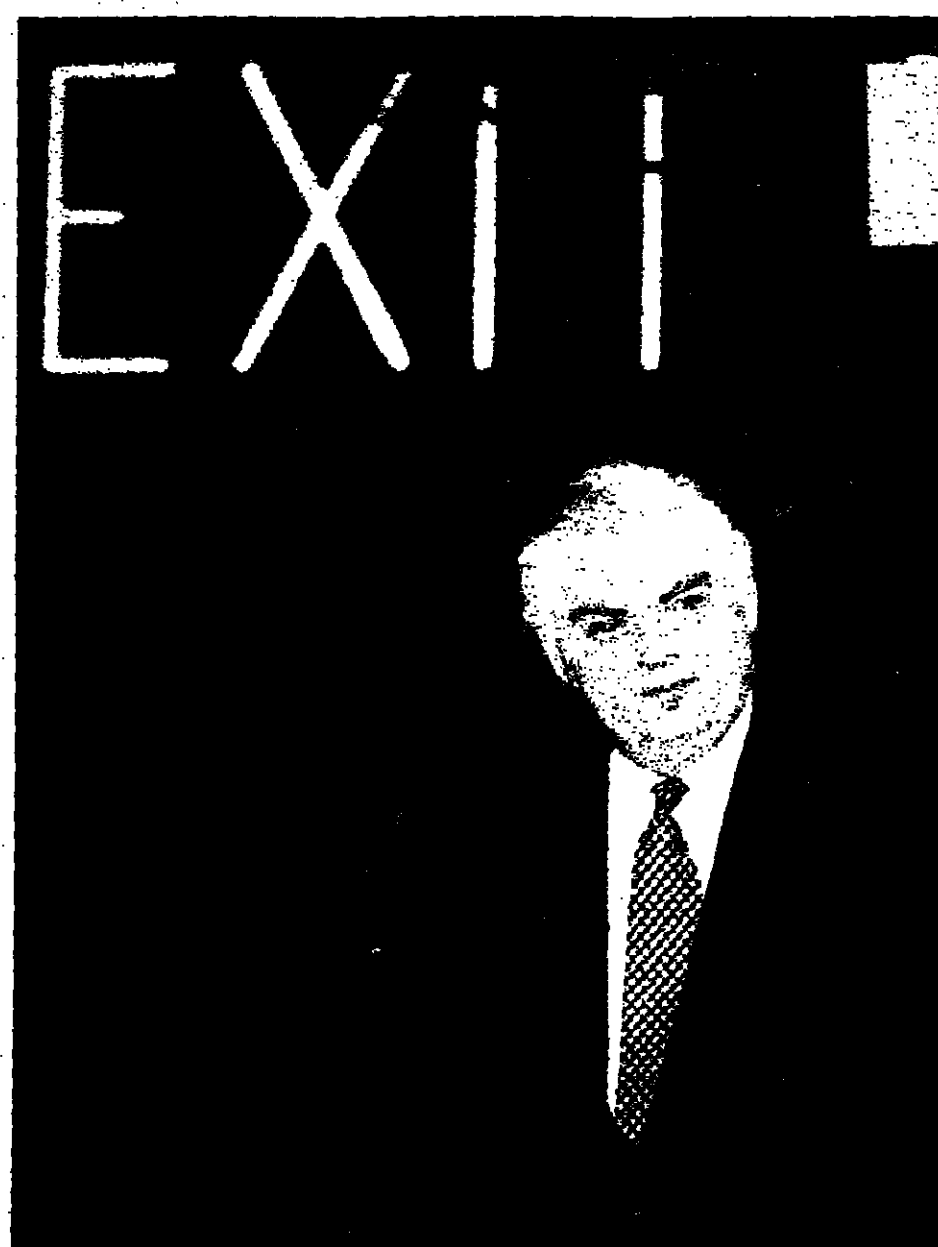
In 1990, British politicians argued endlessly about whether to join the ERM in principle, but there was no discussion about such mundane practicalities as the appropriate exchange rate or the right time to join. In the same way, Britain today is interested only in whether to adopt a single currency as a matter of principle. Nobody is trying to persuade the rest of Europe to adopt a different model of EMU by adding such real variables as unemployment to the convergence criteria.

Adding unemployment to the convergence criteria agreed at Maastricht would either make EMU impossible or would make it far less deflationary than the model inspired by the Bundesbank. Either of these would be more desirable outcomes, not only for Britain, but for all of Europe, than forming a monetary union with the inherent deflationary bias decreed at Maastricht.

However, Britain is so preoccupied by constitutional principles, that such pragmatic issues never arise.

Britain's constitutional dogmatism plagues its entire relationship with Europe. As a result, European institutions are constantly being set up with objectives inimical to British interests.

This would not matter if Britain took the Eurosceptic case to its logical conclusion and withdrew altogether from the European Union, as Mr Lamont and others are now openly urging. But ultimately, such extreme Eurosceptics are simply playing into the Eurosceptics' hands. For better or worse, the reality is that Britain's voters are never likely to support withdrawal from Europe. Britain must therefore argue about what kind of Europe it wants to belong to, not whether to belong. Otherwise it will end up with the worst of both worlds.



Norman Lamont wants to exit a Europe that has aims contrary to British interests

# The long road from corps to corporation

Susan Gilchrist assesses the prospects of military alumni in the City

It is sometimes said that military intelligence is a contradiction in terms. Now the old joke is finding new life after a study commissioned by the Ministry of Defence, which concludes that admirals, generals and air marshals make bad general managers.

The findings will do little to cheer the hearts of alumni who are out on civvy street in growing numbers looking for jobs. A career in the forces, it seems, has trained them for nothing but the dole queue. Their skills, far from being valued, are often seen as irrelevant to the cut and thrust of today's commercial world. Driving a tank is no substitute for driving profits.

But before they consign their CVs to the dustbin, they should take heart from a growing band of supporters who believe a career in the forces can be a prelude to great things in the City and professional management.

Giles Crewdson of Baines Gwiner, a City headhunter, says he always sees candidates from the forces.

"I believe they have a lot to offer," he says. "But they often don't know that, which is a criticism of what is basically an institutionalised system."

Mr Crewdson should know. He was in the British Army himself (the 7th/12th Lancs) until 1982. He believes former members of the military are attractive to companies because they have developed good communication skills, are adaptable, and make excellent team players.

However, he admits they also have drawbacks. They often lack confidence and they tend to obey the hierarchy. "They come from an environment where if someone has a bit more gold on their lapel they are automatically seen as superior. Life in the commercial world is just not like that."

His thoughts are echoed by one former Army officer who is now an established figure in a City firm. "They often undersell themselves. Just because they don't know about the City or commerce doesn't mean they wouldn't be good in those worlds." The ex-officer

believes much military training is relevant to normal working life. "From the age of 21 they have been responsible for a platoon and have learned how to get people to work together. They also have a great ability to work under pressure — on exercises you often go for 48 hours without sleep. That produces hard-working and committed people."

The City seems more willing to embrace ex-majors and ex-colonels than industry. There are former servicemen and women scattered all over the Square Mile, from dealing rooms to corporate finance offices. The City Cavalry Club, a network for former service personnel, has about 200 members.

But the transition is not always easy. As Michael Baines, a former captain of the 4th/7th Dragoon Guards and now head of derivatives and a main board member of Robert Fleming, testifies. He believes the biggest hurdle is adapting to the unstructured environment of the City.

"In the military there is a rank structure and a training structure. The City is far more anarchical."

But those who cross the divide, he says, do well. Indeed, he believes they are better suited to the rapidly changing financial environment than most. "In the Army you change your job on average every two years, and even senior people have to go back to be trained so they know what their juniors are doing." That is a lesson directors of Barings would have done well to learn, Mr Baines says.

Industry is less welcoming. BT says it has no objections to recruiting from the forces but adds that, like many companies, it increasingly needs people with very specific technical skills. When it comes to general managers, it tends to recruit straight from university.

Mr Crewdson admits that age is a definite barrier. "But that is a function of anyone's career. It is no more or no less of an issue in the services than any other profession."

Driving a tank, it seems, is no substitute for driving profits

## Anything goes at Lloyd's, says Tom Benyon

# Names' funds face extra risk

THE 45 action groups at Lloyd's involve more than 20,000 names seeking to recoup their huge losses. Peter Middleton, Lloyd's chief executive, is trying to form a package to solve the disputes.

Lloyd's cannot afford to let billions of pounds leave the market. In the event of a settlement, as a condition to providing some of the settlement proceeds centrally, a substantial part of names' settlement monies will have to stay at Lloyd's, in names' "Premium Trust Funds". These funds are ruled by powers in Premium Trust Deeds (PTD), passed in 1986. Most names are becoming aware that these powers are vast and have recently been increased.

Agents can lead names' money interest free, without security, to whomsoever is deemed to need a fast loan.

Although many agents will not abuse these powers, the risk to solvent names is high. Why should these powers be so wide if they are not to be used? What is extraordinary is that the trustees are the very agents who can make the borrowing. If Lloyd's were to go into run-off, all the unsecured loans made to other syndi-

cates, all the loans made to other years of account and the loans from solvent names to the busted, would rank alongside other unsecured creditors payable at only a fraction of a per cent in the pound.

So, risks inherent in the trusts — especially after recent changes — make Barings look like the World Bank. There are 6,000 to 8,000 can't pay/won't pay names. Managing agents are empowered to take the money of solvent Peter, with his consent, and pay the bills of busted Paul.

When names are bust, members' agents are meant to extract money from Lloyd's Central Fund to pay claims. However, some members' agents are either bust, too overworked, or too incompetent to do so. So, when managing agents need to pay the bills, they can use PTD powers to borrow. Such a practice would be a breach of trust in any other financial market at Lloyd's, anything goes.

Names thought they were trading for themselves, not joining a mutualised market. However, syndicate years are not segregated. If equity is to be preserved among names, Lloyd's should



Benyon: rule attack

enforce payment (which it cannot do because of defence groups' activities) by defaulters or, in the event of failure to do so, the Central Fund (which cannot afford to do so, otherwise it will run out of money) should make good the cash deficiency of the syndicates by a loan or non-recoverable payment should a name be unable to pay. If Lloyd's cannot make good the cash deficiencies, then, to maintain strict equity between names, syndicates

should pay only that part of a policy for which they hold monies from a name.

The wide powers of the trustees to lend and borrow with and without interest or security, have probably been necessary for the system to function. The Lloyd's American Trust Fund is reported to be more restrictive in not allowing inter-syndicate lending.

However, the American authorities are no doubt delighted if American trust funds can borrow from UK trust funds when there is a deficit.

If Lloyd's were to go into run-off, the trustees' responsibilities in these circumstances would need to be examined.

The issue of whether fruits of litigation should be kept at Lloyd's is not just a matter of Lloyd's right to ensure payment of demands. The security of names' funds seems in question. Names' monies are being put at risk to prop up an ailing institution without their consent, interest or security. So, when names consider a negotiated settlement, perhaps they would be wise to remember the risks.

Tom Benyon is director of The Society of Names

## SCOTTISH WIDOWS' FUND AND LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY

### NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the 181st Annual General Meeting of the Members of the Society will be held at the Head Office, 15 Dalkeith Road, Edinburgh on Tuesday, 2nd May 1995 at 2.30 pm for the following purposes:

- To consider the Accounts and Balance Sheets for the year ended 31 December 1994 and the Reports of the Directors and Auditors.
- To re-elect Mr G J N Gemmell, Mr G R G Graham and Mr A J Low as Directors.
- To fix the remuneration of Directors.
- To re-appoint Price Waterhouse as Auditors.
- To authorise the Directors to fix the remuneration of the Auditors for the current year.
- To transact any other ordinary business proper to an Annual General Meeting.

Forms of Proxy for the use of Members of the Society who are unable to be present at the Meeting, but who may wish to vote, may be obtained on application to the undersigned. To be effective Proxies must reach the Society's Head Office not less than two clear working days before the time for holding the Meeting. A proxy need not be a Member of the Society.

Questions may be submitted in advance from Members who themselves or through their Proxy intend to be present at the Meeting. These should be in writing and lodged with the undersigned not less than four clear working days before the Meeting.

H W RAYMOND  
Executive Board Director Corporate Services and Secretary  
15 Dalkeith Road, Edinburgh, EH16 5BU

4 April 1995



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Brian Harris suggests a reform to provide a uniform, independent system of inquiry

## Complaints merit rethink

There is a lot of misunderstanding about complaints. Malicious and unfounded complaints against accountants are rare. The great majority involve nothing more sinister than bad client relations. The modern approach is to seek to resolve as many of such complaints as possible without disciplinary action. After all, as a professional conciliator once said, if you buy a kettle from Woolworths and it does not work, the last thing you want is an offer from the management to discipline the assistant who sold it to you.

Bad work can be a problem. In law, only the most serious forms are amenable to discipline, which can leave the regulator appearing ineffective. And what of the relationship between disciplinary action and the clients' right to redress in the courts? Last year, in a decision seen variously as landmark or aberrant, Price Waterhouse persuaded the Court of Appeal to order suspension of an investigation into their role in the BCCI collapse pending the outcome of litigation that was thought unlikely to be completed this century. More recently, Coopers & Lybrand failed in a similar attempt to stop an investigation relating to the failure of the Maxwell empire. The latter decision is under appeal.

Greater openness in disciplinary hearings has been called for, not only by the press, but by a number of stirrers and shakers in the



Brian Harris says that investigations' high cost remains contentious

English Institute. Open hearings involve tricky questions for a body that does not enjoy statutory protection against libel actions. Nevertheless, there must be a case for public hearing of cases which most often rely on evidence provided in confidence by other regulators. If there were no provision for going into closed session, it would not be feasible to bring proceedings. And an "open hearing" that went into closed session for the most interesting evidence would be a hollow privilege from the public's point of view. Much has been done to improve reporting of disciplinary proceedings, but more thought will

be needed before the tribunal doors can be thrown open.

Cost and delay remain most contentious. The Barlow Clowes investigation has gone on for six years at a cost believed to run into millions of pounds. Its machinery (a committee of inquiry acting as policeman, judge and jury) has been abandoned for future investigations, but it would be foolish to imagine that inquiries of this magnitude could be conducted more swiftly and cheaply — and as fairly — by some form of British SEC. The notion that the taxpayer, and not the profession, would pick up the bill is ingenious. A point against self-regulation is

lack of independence for the disciplinary process, an argument that finds support in the Human Rights Convention's "independence" requirements. In fact, English and Scottish chartered accountants have such an instrument to hand, which they share with certified accountants. The Joint Disciplinary Scheme is administered by an executive independent of the three participating bodies that incorporates public interest as well as accountancy members. The JDS operates through a senior lawyer, the Executive Counsel, with expert help from the profession and with power to reward those prepared to admit failings. The JDS deals with few cases of "public concern".

However, it would be feasible, and compatible with self-regulation, to transfer all disciplinary responsibilities from the three bodies to the JDS. Existing staff would work under the Executive Counsel's direction and tribunals would sit wherever need arose. Dispensing with or assimilating existing committees, such a change would offer members a more professional and uniform system of inquiry and assure complainants of decision-making independent of the body representing the member.

□ Brian Harris, QC, is a former director of professional conduct at the English Institute and secretary of the JDS

## New public sector standards

IT HAS always seemed very odd that there should be such a gulf of rules, regulations and public interest between public companies and the public sector. We know much less about the financial state of our local hospitals, schools and councils than we probably do about the accounts of ICI, Tesco or Glaxo.

Even under the current reforming zeal of the Accounting Standards Board, it is goodwill, the format of cash-flow statements and disclosure of derivatives which is attracting high-profile debate. In contrast, the public sector liaison committee, set up under the ASB to look at specific public sector matters, was described by its chairman as having "no status, no authority and no resources".

That quote turns up in a discussion paper published by CIPFA, the public sector accounting body, this week. Put together by Martin Evans, head of CIPFA's technical and research division, it is called *Setting Accounting Standards for the Public Sector*. It goes back to the roots of the ASB.

When Sir Ron Dearing wrote the report from which the whole Financial Reporting Council and ASB structure sprang, he included a specific recommendation on the public sector. It said that "there should be an underlying unity of approach to accounting standards across the public and private sectors, with accounting standards normally applicable in the public sector so that unneces-



ROBERT BRUCE

sary differences in accounting and financial reporting between the two sectors are reduced; and so that standards apply even-handedly to both sectors, except where clearly inappropriate".

It is this that Evans's proposals seek to implement. The discussion paper advocates the setting up of a public services accounting advisory board. This would take the equivalent US body and build upon it. Its objective would be "to advise those in government with responsibility for defining accounting requirements for different parts of the public services on the accounting principles and accounting standards appropriate to all public service bodies". It would have a full-time secretariat, including a technical director and project

managers and a programme of research.

That, to many people, sounds like a recipe for disaster. It would turn into a talking shop. It would busy itself with research, produce little and change less. But one of the key points in the discussion paper is that it would be run under the aegis of the FRC and the ASB, and so would be at the heart of the financial reporting machinery. It would have as its chairman the chief accountancy adviser to the Treasury.

Evans argues that "the current idea of Treasury control of accounting standards in the public sector is a myth" and that the reality is that "a whole host of bodies have their fingers in the pie". The new proposals would formalise a system which, although created with good intentions, is ad hoc to a worrying extreme. Even so, the final result would be advisory rather than mandatory "but should in practice be sufficiently authoritative and persuasive to be adopted by Government".

This would be reinforced by legislation requiring all public service bodies "to prepare their accounts in accordance with 'proper accounting practices'" and by a requirement for all statutory audit agencies to report annually to select committees of the Public Accounts Committee of the House of Commons. That, in particular, would focus the minds of those reporting on the public sector.

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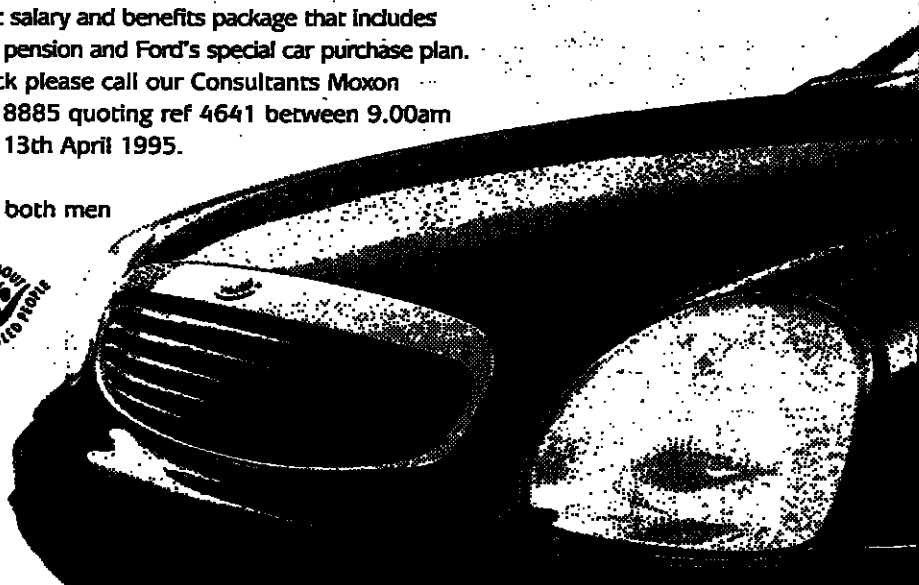
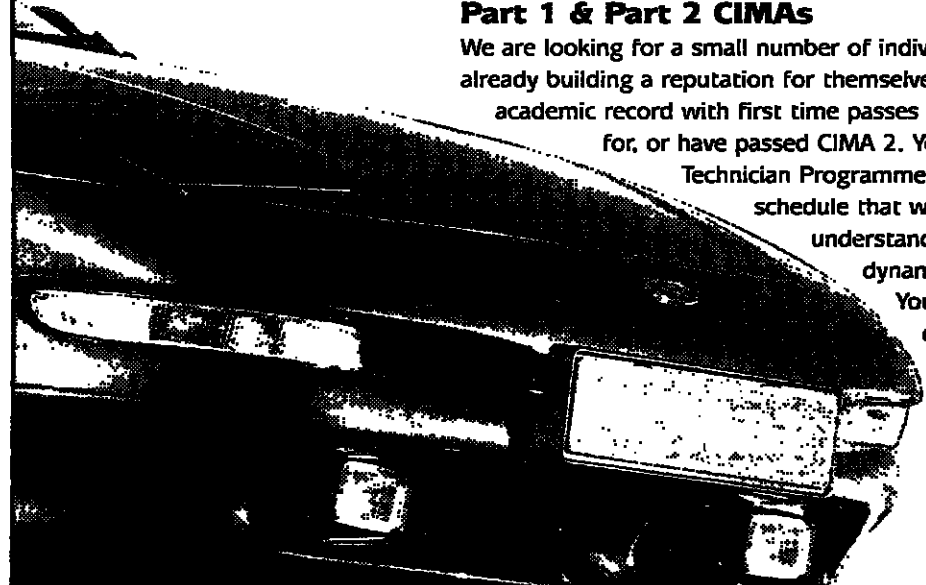
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25 April 1995



**MUSIC page 32**  
Full of sound and fury?  
The South Bank  
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# ARTS

**THEATRE page 33**

John Nettles stars in  
the RSC's staging of  
Ben Jonson's satire,  
The Devil is an Ass



**CINEMA: Geoff Brown on a screen week dominated by idiots, dogs, dark thoughts and British talents**

## A shaggy tale of two stooges

This is the week cinema goes to the dogs. In *Far From Home* a Labrador survives a shipwreck and sniffs his way home through the forests of British Columbia. A hundred and one dalmatians lope through Disney's cartoon version of Dodie Smith's book. Meanwhile, the heroes of *Dumb and Dumber* criss-cross America in a van shaped like a sheepdog. All this plus Hugh Grant in a smug, and Jessica Lange winning her Oscar.

The dog van in *Dumb and Dumber*, a shaggy creation with ears, nose and panting tongue, is driven by Jeff Daniels, who sports his own shaggy hair. A brain does not lurk behind it: asked by a speed cop to pull over, he inspects his own chest and says: "Ya, it's a cardigan, thanks for noticing." Room-mate Jim Carrey, with a pudding-bowl cut and clipped front tooth, occasionally shows more sympathy, though intercepting a briefcase packed with ransom money is not his brightest move. Thugs pick up their trail as they drive cross-country to return the briefcase to the kidnapper's wife. There are good-natured jokes about laxatives, chili peppers, urine in beer.

Funny? American audiences found it so: they made the movie one of the winter's hits. Carrey pulls faces with his usual energy. Daniels, wisely, never tries to compete and supplies his own line of blank looks.

The Farrelly brothers, Peter and Bob, who directed and wrote with Bennett Yelkin, deliver the goods they want to sell. The trouble is, they never know when to stop. The Three Stooges, patron saints of idiot comedy, usually had the sense to stick to two-reelers. Here the mayhem lasts 102 minutes, time enough for the repetitions and lack of IQ to pull. I did laugh occasionally, but please, no sequel.

Anyone panting for Hugh Grant the floppy-haired ditherer will get a shock from *An Awfully Big Adventure*. He sits with horn-rimmed glasses, sometimes a monocle, always a cigarette between nicotine-stained fingers, his expression pitched halfway between a smug of disdain and the sign of an upset stomach. He is Meredith Potter, repertory theatre director and

**Dumb and Dumber**  
Odeon Leicester Square, 12, 102 mins  
The height of comic stupidity  
**An Awfully Big Adventure**  
Warner West End, 15, 112 mins  
Hugh Grant sneers, and Mike Newell turns abrasive  
**Blue Sky**  
National Film Theatre, 12, 105 mins  
Slender vehicle for Oscar-winner Jessica Lange  
**Far From Home**  
MGM Trocadero, U, 80 mins  
Docile family film  
**One Hundred and One Dalmatians**  
Odeon West End, U, 80 mins  
Pleasant Disney revival  
**Postcards from America**  
ICA Cinema, 18, 93 mins  
Fantasia on gay themes  
**Tales from a Hard City**  
ICA Cinematheque, 85 mins  
Mordant documentary from Sheffield



Getting smart: Jim Carrey and Jeff Daniels as the intellectually challenged room-mates heading for disaster in *Dumb and Dumber*

trampler of innocence: the most odious of the characters gathered into Beryl Bainbridge's novel, set in Liverpool, 1947.

Those wishing another *Four Weddings and a Funeral* from director Mike Newell will be equally surprised. No romping comedy, this, but an abrasive film about a stage-struck 16-year-old girl walking a tightrope between innocence and danger in her job as assistant stage manager. Entranced by Meredith, she fails to notice the jealousies swirling backstage, though she gains more knowledge of sexual matters with Alan Rickman, who rides into the plot on a bike halfway through to play Captain Hook in *Peter Pan*.

In Barrie's play, Peter contemplates death as "an awfully big adventure", and dark thoughts always shadow these theatrical types as they battle insecurity, dingy bedrooms, and the changing

repertoire of Priestley and Shaw. Dick Pope's photography enhances the mood with its own colouring: always good camouflage for a low-budget film, though enough details of patterned cardigans, turned goods and shop-fronts shine through to evoke the period. (Dublin actually supplied locations: Liverpool did not look old enough.)

Rickman appears too much the star to fit the ensemble cast: but Newell's magic works on the rest. Grant is convincingly despicable as Potter, though his performance will win him no extra female fans; and newcomer Georgina Cates is raw and fresh as the vulnerable heroine, lost in a world of make-believe.

For several years, *Blue Sky* has led a sad, hidden existence. Its director, Tony Richardson, died soon after completion in 1991. The producing company, Orion, then succumbed to financial woes, and the cans sat on the shelf. Tentatively released in America last year, the film has flared into prominence with Jessica Lange's Oscar for Best Actress. Her combustible wife of an army officer in the early 1960s is a striking creation. But there is a thinness about *Blue Sky* that makes it best left for home viewing.

Opening credits roll over maga-

zine covers and photo spreads featuring Bardot, Monroe and other Fifties icons. These are where Lange's character gets her hair-styles and dreams. The military frown on her wildness, particularly in Alabama, where stress is heightened by an underground testing programme and the commanding officer's roving hands. Alongside Lange's exuberant life force, Tommy Lee Jones displays notable subtlety as the husband trapped in the army's straitjacket.

For Richardson, *Blue Sky* marks a sober conclusion to a wayward career: no fancy frills, just good acting, and a story simply told. But the film's lack of depth reduces its power, and as the plot grows melodramatic, even Oscar-winning Jessica fails to convince. *Blue Sky* enters your head, entertains, exits, and leaves no trace.

Back to our dogs. The Labrador first appears in *Far From Home* looking plaintive in a wood. He soon picks up a young human pal (Jesse Bradford), and the pair's survival skills are tested as they fight their way back from the boy's father's capsized boat. Search planes fail to spot them. Food

dwindles to worms and creepy crawlies. But a happy ending is never in doubt, for this docile affair from Philip Borsos, director of *The Grey Fox*, sticks slavishly to the oldest traditions: good news for those who enjoy pretty scenery and the mindset of Baden-Powell, bad news for parents who like to stay awake in the cinema.

*One Hundred and One Dalmatians* is a better Easter bet, though this 1961 cartoon might rattle youngsters used to the brash attractions of *Aladdin*. Nothing is thrust in your face: Dodie Smith's endearing British story about the rescue of dalmatians threatened with an after-life as a fur coat ambles along quietly. No show-off voice artists jerk your elbow: the only famous cast name is Rod Taylor, who speaks for Pongo, the canine whose puppies attract the eyes of the hissing Cruella De Vil.

The animation is equally subdued. Instead of today's noisy display, you get dainty set pieces such as the "twilight bark", where dogs relay an alarm call from Regent's Park to the sleeping countryside beyond. Disney's scriptwriters have tweaked the material slightly to suit American tastes. But enough gentle doggy

charm survives to make for pleasurable viewing.

*Terminal Velocity*, a ludicrous sky-diving thriller, and the tedious sports comedy *Little Big League* complete Hollywood's offerings this week. Better by far to focus on two new British talents on show at the ICA. Steve McLean, groomed in pop promos and TV, piles on the glossy gay style for *Postcards from America*, an eye-grabbing fantasia inspired by the life and writings of the combative artist David Wojnarowicz. McLean skates over Wojnarowicz's anger, but his mobile camera is certainly good at catching beautiful surfaces: desert rocks, Fifties furniture, golden male bodies.

Nothing glamorous hogs the lens in *Tales from a Hard City*. Kim Flikroff's hilarious documentary portrait of four Sheffield hopefuls pursuing showbiz fame. One is a car thief with a gift for karaoke; another is a cigar-chomping entrepreneur trying to make headlines from a local girl's spell in a Greek jail. Their slick exchanges and dovetailed stories prompt the suspicion that life is being manipulated by Filicoff's art; but who can resist the characters' silliness and bare-faced cheek?

## Funny way to stay in the business

Jeff Daniels is playing dumb for smart reasons

Jeff Daniels is smiling. He is trying not to, but he has just revealed that he has a percentage of *Dumb and Dumber* which, with \$119 million already in the bank, has become the surprise American box-office success of the year. The film (reviewed left) is unrelentingly silly. But perhaps the real wonder of the enterprise is not that its star, the facially athletic Jim Carrey, has carried off another hit, but that his co-star is Daniels, who has a reputation for excelling in intelligent dramas and understated comedy.

Indeed, Daniels's early credits include *Ragtime*, *Terms of Endearment*, *The Purple Rose of Cairo* and *Something Wild*. He is also the author of four plays, written for the Purple Rose Theatre which he founded in his native Michigan. But when his Hollywood profile began to fade half a decade back he was forced to take films for money. "I had to keep working in this business and if I want to continue living in Michigan then I have to be in movies that people see."

So, placing his pride on one side, Daniels took a supporting role in a big, brainless Hollywood movie starring a young Turk called Keanu Reeves. He had little to do, but the film — *Speed* — turned into the highest-grossing event of his career. It was unfortunate, then, that his character was blown to kingdom come on page 60, preventing profitable collaboration on a sequel.

Now comes *Dumb and Dumber*. The actor was not an obvious choice for the role of a moronic dog groomer, but once he revealed a capacity for gross absurdity both he and Carrey were able to push the parameters of farce even further. "Jim breaks the rules," notes Daniels. "They teach you in Hollywood that less is more, like Gary Cooper, do nothing. But Jim starts over the top and goes further."

While *Dumb and Dumber* is plainly aimed at the more infantile sensibility of its audience, there is a streak of cruelty that seems at odds with its good-natured burlesque. "Sure, we cross the line occasionally," Daniels admits. "But as soon as you start to worry about being politically correct you blunt the knife of comedy."

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**ROCK: Louise Gray at the first night of a sell-out tour**

## Slickly high-octane

Janet Jackson  
Sheffield Arena



Selling out what looked like a giant grain silo might not seem an auspicious way to kick off six equally sold-out British dates, but then Janet Jackson is not like other performers. With her heaving mass of sculpted hair and aerobically stomach, she can make any silo her own.

The youngest of the nine Jackson siblings, she can rival her brother Michael in album sales. *Control* and *Rhythm Nation 1814* notched up eight million sales each; her latest, *Janet*, has passed ten million.

Success on such a scale suggests that a middle ground of sensibility is being satisfied. Indeed, Jackson serves up an excitingly high-octane soul-funk that may try to be risqué, but ends up as good-temperedly naughty instead.

However, few others have the same sense of theatrics. Her entry on to the stage for the opening song, *If*, was preceded by stabbing blue lights, strobes and pyrotechnics. A Big Brother-like voice announced that the rhythm nation was upon us. Gasps and cheers were offered up from the audience.

When Jackson was finally glimpsed, surrounded by eight gyrating dancers, one felt that with stage direction such as this, she could fill silos for the rest of eternity. She followed with two hits from *Control* — *What Have You Done For Me Late?* and *Nasty* — and then a breathless thank-you. The ensuing ovation lasted five minutes. Giant video screens beamed her regal smiles

across the silo. "I love you so much, Sheffield..." she started, and the applause made the steel rafters vibrate.

For all the breathless magic of the performance, there were few surprises in such a tightly controlled and conceived show. Costume changes for Jackson and her dancers (led by the aluringly feisty choreographer, Tina Landon) sped past in a blur; fireworks punctuated the zapier songs.

Only two moments had the mark of the apparently impromptu. One hapless man, hauled on to stage for *Any Time, Any Place*, clutched at his heart in a stricken way as Jackson planted herself in his lap and started writhing. One anticipated the blue lights of

ambulances, but the incident passed without fatality, although Jackson did burst into tears during the subsequent song, a ballad titled *Adagio*. Luckily the musicians, led by Rex Salas, anticipated every sob and the singer made a miraculous recovery to dish out blistering versions of *Black Cat* and *Rhythm Nation* itself.

This last song, which sees all Jackson's central characters transformed into skipping soldiers, complete with uniforms, places its seductive emphasis on masses moving together as a coherent whole. A mile kitsch, perhaps, but this is slickly realised performance at a high level: ficker-holders are in for a treat.

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THE TIMES THURSDAY APRIL 6 1995

THEATRE: David Troughton steals a rollicking Jonson revival; an old man's tender and powerful memories of Ireland

# Sympathy for the devil

## A broken mind to break hearts

How best to evoke a hell adequate to Ben Jonson's brilliant imagination on the Swan's bare apron-stage? Bunny Christie and Matthew Warchus, respectively designer and director of this seldom-performed satire, make a pretty good stab at it. Satan himself, who stands high in a black-blue haze wearing what seems to be a bathing cap, may look rather like a champion diver wondering where the water has gone; but his metallic boom echoes impressively enough for us to see why the creatures below wince and cringe. And they are terrific bloated green-grey reptiles whose cow-heads and webbed wings might have been jointly concocted by Tenniel, Aleister

### The Devil is an Ass Swan, Stratford

Crowley and Stephen King. Certainly, you would not want one of them knocking on the door and offering his services as butler. But that is what John Douglas's Pug proceeds to do, borrowing the body of a recently hanged cutpurse in order to dupe the upwardly mobile and dotter into employing him. And so begins one of the long moral jokes in which Jonson glories, which turns out to be the slyer, harder and wicked, Satan's emissary or Jacobean London? Pug himself provides the answer, for he ends up begging his master to return him to the relative decency of Hell, brimstone and all.

It might have been more of a contest if Jonson had not cheated a bit and Warchus had not condoned the swindle. Pug is awfully naïve and passive, for even a minor devil and Douglas cuts a wan, hapless figure in the role. But then he has to be coddled by his master, thrown into jail and generally made to look as if he comes from the sticks rather than the City. In this production, the poor hick is even manacled and abused by sex-mad harpies with whips.

But by the end you are willing to overlook the emasculation of the foul fiend and concentrate on what matters: Jonson's gleefully cynical portrayal of a metropolis given up to greed, trickery and folly.

The con-games that ensue are not as much fun as their counterparts in *The Alchemist*, nor do they have the size and weight they do in *Volpone*. *The Devil is an Ass* is a less inventive, resonant piece than either. But with David Troughton as the genuine victim and John Nettles as principal rogue, the play does have an authentically Jonsonian feel. Warchus's revival could probably have more bite, but it is not lacking in energy and momentum.



Joanna Roth, David Troughton and Douglas Henshall in a scene from Ben Jonson's satire of Jacobean London, *The Devil is an Ass*

Nettles's Mercutio is a recognisably modern figure beneath the Jacobean robes, a sauntering, smiling wheeler-dealer whose wheezes range from creating a monopoly in toothpicks to selling phony honours. His detestable, extreme gullibility is harder to credit. But that is forgivable when the role provides the RSC's latest high-flyer with so many comic opportunities. Looking like a cross between Jimmy Hill and Stonehenge, Troughton half-struts,

half-clomps about the stage, eyes agog at the prospect of becoming the Duke of Drowned Land. He makes you believe that, like many of Jonson's mono-manics, he will do anything for gain. If that means hiring his wife to an admirer to pay for a cloak, or signing away his fortune and then accusing her of witchcraft, that's fine by him.

The supporting cast includes Joanna Roth as this seriously put-upon spouse, Sheila Steafel as a brassy

fraudster, Douglas Henshall as a lover who ends up coyly disguised as a lacquered Spanish equivalent of the Avon lady, and Christopher Godwin as a spindly, wizened cross between a daddy-long-legs and the ghost of Walter Raleigh.

But the evening mainly belongs to Troughton and his "blasted flesh". He ends *Volpone*-style, deceiving the authorities from the safety of a sickbed. He fakes levitation, spits out bits of factitious fire, drools shaving

foam, cries "poul, joul, knight, shite", and looks as if his head is about to twirl in circles.

Though Troughton's face was sometimes hidden from me by bad blocking — a frequent complaint among audiences at the Swan — I do not think there is an actor who could spoof *The Exorcist* more entertainingly.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

DANCE: A dose of Czech nationalism; plus, Mark Murphy's latest

## A long way on a little

Chamber Ballet  
Prague  
Sadler's Wells

NECESSITY is the mother of Pavel Smok's invention. With little or no money in the budget to hire outside choreographers, Smok has had to rely on his own dance-making skills to feed the repertoire of his Chamber Ballet, Prague. Seven of the eight pieces the company brings to London this week are by him.

This makes for a problematic evening. On the evidence of the company's opening programme, Smok is a choreographer of modest talents with occasional bursts of unexpected and beautiful imaginings. But there are not enough of them to forestall the realisation that his ideas run out of steam long before the music (all of it Czech) is over.

*Trio in G minor*, set to Smetana, could be quite a good piece if the score were half as long. Two women and one man form a trio (ostensibly a father and his two daughters), finding comfort from tragedy in their unity, constantly returning to the physical affirmation of each other. These points of contact deliver the most striking linkages, capped by certain recurring motifs — a head cradled in a cupped hand, for example. But once Smok's choreographic itinerary has been

laid out, the unfolding of it is rather predictable. And the stretched sonorities of both movement and music are overlaid with a sweetness that becomes finally indigestible. The earliest work on the programme, *Intimate Letters* (to Janáček's *Second String Quartet*), played live by the Brno Quartet, comes from 1969 and shows the naivety of Smok at the beginning of his career. His desire to create "a symbolic cycle of the artist's life, moving from birth to death and on to a new life" is taken to literal extremes. We see the birth pains of the artist's mother, the artist chasing his inspiration, death stalking the artist. Each phase is signalled by the changing hairdo of the lead female, who is first mother, then lover, muse and grm reaper. The piece is so burdened with transparent meaning, it can barely stand up. Far better is Smok's other Janáček offering, *Sinfonietta*, a more purposeful and layered work from 1985, coloured by a



Smok at his best: the Prague dancers in *Sinfonietta*

greater rhythmic variation and alive with bright, joyous accents. Here, at last, the dancers come on strong as they answer the call of Janáček's army of trumpets (taped, unfortunately). Completing the programme is Jiri Kylian's *Evening Songs* (to Dvořák's), a

DEBRA CRAINE

## No issue too big

V-Tol Dance Company  
The Place

just to depict a triangular relationship. That way he might have focused more on individualising the performers and developing the choreography.

As it is the piece seethes its energies on tactics which you suspect have deep significance, but are too imprecise to reach their mark. A brief prologue shows performers lying naked, as their clothes are thrown at them; a recorded voice

breaks into intermittent panting or intones such gems as "fear is a painful emotion excited by danger". Tracy Mackenna's sound-score also includes screeches and percussion that might be just the thing to trigger your migraine. Where grandiose ambition is matched by result, however, is in the stage design. Setting, lighting and film projections satisfyingly coalesce to create colours, shadows and figures that overlap and bounce off each other. Different screens form layers of celluloid silhouettes among which circulate the flesh-and-blood ones of the dancers.

Murphy has benefited from his study of film techniques. But his choreography stays monotonously tense and limited. The dancers chugged and jolted with selfless vigour and deserved every ounce of applause that met this vacuous piece.

NADINE MEISNER

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## VIETNAM

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# How the past is always with us

Peter Ackroyd enjoys a bold attempt to excavate the veins of myth beneath our environment

The premise of this voluminous study is that landscape has always been a human construction: nature and perception cannot be separated, as every schoolchild knows, and Simon Schama has decided to explore some of the effects of this familiar if misunderstood symbiosis. His purpose, then, is to begin "an excavation below our conventional sight-level to recover the veins of myth and memory that lie beneath the surface". We might continue the same metaphor by noting that this is in part familiar territory, and Schama sometimes covers old ground — even, on occasions, wanders down a false trail — but, to the greatest extent, this is a vigorous and invigorating book.

He begins in "Wood", moves upon "Water" and ascends "Rock" before confining the great pleasure gardens of Arcadia. Water leads to myths of *fons sapientiae* and theories of arterial circulation, while "Rock" takes on the iconography of Mount Rushmore or the tenor of Burke's *Philosophical Enquiry into the Sublime and the Beautiful*. Schama moves from the history of bison in Lithuania to the fate of a manuscript by Tacitus, from Bernini to Sir Walter Raleigh. Modern cultural history has become an endlessly fascinating game of dice where skill and coincidence work together.

That is why this is also a very personal book. Schama's ancestors came from the borderland of Poland and Lithuania, rural Jews who worked in the "primeval forests" of that region. So he himself goes back into the dark wood of inheritance and, in recounting the troubled past of Lithuania, suggests that "the truly heroic historians of the drama are trees" since it was the forest which preserved all sense of national identity. "The trees," he writes, "acted as priestly guardian and instructor in the

immortal continuity of this history." In that sense the forest can become the natural equivalent of Casaubon's "Key to all Mythologies". It can be seen as a dark wood, the emblem of primitivism or savagery, or as a sacred grove; it can be the sign of fallen nature, as in Milton and Dante, or of unspoiled innocence, as in Rousseau and Thoreau. In terms of German Romanticism, in Schama's words, it offers "the ancient mystique of rustic innocence, martial virility, and woodland nativism". Thus does the forest become involved in the great cultural debates of the centuries, even in our own time when "Green"

**LANDSCAPE AND MEMORY**  
By Simon Schama  
HarperCollins, £30



The landscape Monet fled: Paris besieged in 1871, from Claude Monet: *Impressions of France* by John Russell Taylor (Collins & Brown, £14.99)

which "yield the deep connections between past and present". When we also read Schama's descriptions of "the kind of drunken routs that were second nature to young English gentlemen abroad" in the mid-18th century, we realise that there are other forms of natural or human continuity.

But his central point remains. Pagan gods were discovered in the foundations of old St Paul's, while the temple of Mithras is very close to Wren's cathedral. This echoic sense of the past — these "connections" — to employ Schama's word — are now being explored in fields as diverse as biology and fiction, and it comes as no surprise that Schama himself is attracted to that almost spiritual sense of place which is also being explored by certain London novelists. Clerkenwell and Limehouse are, in a sense,

as old as the great forests. Perhaps these concerns will be taken more seriously in the new millennium. We shall see.

But Schama is as good a reader of paintings as he is of people and, among other things, *Landscape and Memory* might pass for a perfectly respectable work of art history, for example, can be analysed through a variety of pictorial representations. Of course the danger is that the explicator begins to see meanings and allegories everywhere — but that is precisely Schama's point.

The natural world is indeed made up of signs and emblems as well as rocks and waters — it derives its real significance from the minds of men and women. That is why natural history programmes on television are so profoundly unsatisfactory: there are endless analyses of the technology of flowers, for example, but no concern at all for the symbolic and religious connotations of floral imagery. We may see plants and flowers in "close-up", but we do not see them clearly.

The book begins with primeval forests and ends with Central Park, which may or may not be the wrong way round. In any case it does not matter. Simon Schama can only come full circle in a book that discusses the permanence of myth and the continuity of past and present. As he suggests at the very beginning, "through a mantle of ash can emerge a shoot of restored life". *Landscape and Memory* is a fine study of that endless restoration.

## BACKLIST

**Books by Simon Schama**  
**PATRIOTS AND LIBERATORS**  
Revolution in the Netherlands, 1780-1813  
1977, Fontana £14.99 pbk  
**THE EMBARRASSMENT OF RICHES**  
Interpretation of Dutch Culture in the Golden Age  
1987, Fontana £14.99 pbk  
**CITIZENS**  
Chronicle of the French Revolution  
1989, Viking £25  
**DEAD CERTAINITIES**  
Unwarranted Speculations  
1991, Granta £7.99 pbk

## The code of Bertie and Alexandra

John Grigg

**EDWARD VII**  
By George Plumptre  
Pavilion, £19.99

King Edward VII went to some lengths to make life difficult for his biographers. In his will he directed that all his private correspondence should be destroyed, and the instruction was faithfully carried out after his death. Already, while he was King, vast quantities of Queen Victoria's letters relating to personal and family affairs had been burnt on his orders. Nevertheless, at least 25 books have been written about him, including most notably Sidney Lee's two-volume official life, published in 1927, and Philip Magnus's admirable single-volume life, published in 1960.

Now we have another biography of him, by an author well known to garden-loving readers of *The Times*. The blurb claims that George Plumptre has drawn on "much previously unpublished material", but seasoned readers should expect no great surprises. Though he has clearly made more extensive use than previous writers of the papers of Edward's friend Charles Carrington, Lord Lincolnshire, and has also extracted some new material from the much-used Escher papers, in all essentials the narrative will be familiar to anyone who has read earlier books on the subject.

This is not to say that writing the book was a waste of time — far from it. Quite apart from providing, as it will, a thoroughly pleasant and readable account of Edward's life for those who come new to it, the book also brings a distinctive judgment to bear on his personality, and on his

significance for the monarchy. In particular, it is the first life of him to appear since the public has become obsessed with the problems of another heir to a long-reigning Queen, similarly married to a woman of exceptional glamour, and similarly in trouble with the Seventh Commandment.

In fact, there are more differences than similarities between the two cases. Edward had none of the intellectual pretensions of his great-grandson, the present Prince of Wales, but he did have an abundance of the more useful and appropriate quality of common sense.

Above all, he had a strong sense of royal duty. One cannot imagine him ever complaining publicly of his parents, though he had more grounds for complaint than Prince Charles has — and it would have been inconceivable for him to allow a journalist free access to his most intimate records for the purpose of writing a book about him.

As for his wife, Alexandra, she is comparable to Diana, Princess of Wales, in being beautiful but not very bright, and in having a natural flair for comforting the sick. But there the resemblance ends. Despite her husband's infidelities, she remained loyal to him and to the institution in



Prince Edward and Princess Alexandra at Cowes, 1870

which, by marrying him, she had become a key figure. As Plumptre says, she and Edward (or Bertie, as he was known in the family) "enjoyed each other's company and soon developed mutual pride, he for her beauty, she for his bonhomie and gusto and for the position he had given her by marriage". Their partnership was based on "a code, difficult to understand today, but not unusual among their contemporaries". There was much to be said for that code.

Edward was gross in his appetites and a relentless pleasure-seeker, but also good-natured and generous. He was shrewd about people and had the faculty, most valuable in a royal, of seldom forgetting a face. He had the equally valuable gift of being able to make a good speech off the cuff, and could do it in three languages. Unlike previous Hanoverians, he got on well with his eldest son and gave him every encouragement. (Unfortunately that son — the future George V — reverted to family type in failing to treat his own eldest son with understanding.)

Though Edward was certainly no radical, he knew the time of day and adapted himself tolerably well to the requirements of constitutional monarchy in the early 20th century; for instance, in establishing good personal relations with Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman before he became Liberal Prime Minister, and in taking the view that the Lords would be unwise to reject Lloyd George's 1909 Budget.

Plumptre rightly stresses Edward's realisation that in the age of a burgeoning popular press the monarch needed to be visible. His own temperament was suitably outgoing, and perhaps his supreme quality was a capacity for enjoyment that communicated itself to the world at large — a quality shared, in our own time, by Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother.

The author thanks the book's editor "for all her work", but the thanks are unmerited. I have seldom read a book with more mistakes of the kind that editors exist to correct. Lord Randolph Churchill is repeatedly spelt "Lord Randolph". Keir Hardie appears as "Kier Hardie" and Lord Mayo as "Lord Maho". Nicholson is spelt correctly and incorrectly (as "Nicholson") on successive lines; Alexandra is at one point spelt "Alexandra", and Alexandra as "Alexandra". Worse still, Biarritz is located on the Mediterranean. The book deserves a second edition for its own sake, but not least to enable such blunders to be removed.

## An eye for a truce

Richard Owen

**BATTLING FOR PEACE**  
Memoirs  
By Shimon Peres  
Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £20

STATESMEN often set out to reflect on the historic events they have helped to shape, but end up settling old scores with rivals. Shimon Peres, the Israeli Foreign Minister and former Prime Minister, sets out to do both. Israel has always been a combination of noisy quarrelsome politics on the one hand and soaring visions of the Promised Land on the other. In Peres's case the quarrel is with Yitzhak Rabin, the present Prime Minister and the man with whom Peres shares the credit for Israel's great attempt to achieve Middle East peace.

Peres has made a long journey from childhood in a Belorussian Jewish shtetl, kibbutz life in British Mandate Palestine and the politics of the Zionist Left to high office, culminating in the Oslo accords with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). Here he sets out his blueprint for "the new Middle East" — a place where precious resources, instead of being poured away on the arms race and other "harmful or pointless causes", will be used to raise living standards. "Making peace in our region would not only put an end to the devastating drain of blood and treasure, it would also promote the enhanced generation of wealth," he writes.

FEW OTHERS can offer such a vision with such authority. The Oslo accords were largely the result of Peres's negotiating skill, and the "Gaza First" proposal was very much his brainchild. The "saga of the Jewish nation, he writes, is the story not only of a land and a faith, but also of 'exceptional individuals'. He is speaking of his heroes, such as David Ben-Gurion and Moshe Dayan, but the observation could well apply to himself.

Peres here recounts his bid to reach a secret peace with King Hussein of Jordan, long before the "secretly" possible. They met in April 1987 at the London home of Lord Mishcon, best known nowadays as legal adviser to the Princess of Wales. Peres recalls wearing "my most elegant suit" and a stylish brown wig for the clandestine meeting. He also discloses that he and the King, unlikely as it may seem, "went into the kitchen to help with the washing up", and there began the dialogue which led to a secret agreement on an international peace conference at which the PLO would be sidelined by the device of a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation.

THE DEAL was sabotaged by Yitzhak Shamir, the right-wing Likud leader with whom Peres then shared the premiership on a rotating basis. Progress, Peres observes, became impossible until their coalition was replaced by a Labour Government led by Rabin. Yet it is Rabin rather than Shamir for whom Peres reserves his bile. In 1992 he was defeated by Rabin for the Labour leadership in a close contest. This was a "painful defeat", he writes, adding with hurt pride: "People made a point of saying they felt I had been hard done by."

It is perhaps all the more remarkable that over the past three years the Peres-Rabin rivalry has been set aside. "Bitterness is not statesmanship," Peres writes. He and Rabin were able to meet alone during the secret talks with the PLO and to argue, without the argument becoming personal, and without it leaking out in the next days' press. But the Israel-PLO deal fails — so far, at least — to deliver a comprehensive peace. Peres does not address this. There are copious references in the index to Yossi Netanyahu, who died a hero at Entebbe, but none to his brother Benjamin. Shamir's headline successor as Likud leader, Peres concludes by outlining his plans for a prosperous, tolerant, creative Middle East. But much of his life's work may yet be undone by Netanyahu and the Israeli Right, who detest everything Peres — and indeed Rabin — stand for.

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SIMON SCHAMA, author of the award-winning *Citizens* and one of the most imaginative and exciting historians writing today, will talk about his latest book *Landscape & Memory* at The Times/Dillons Lecture on Tuesday, April 11. *Landscape & Memory* is a thought-provoking and ground-breaking study of the interflow of ideas between culture and landscape. Schama, described as "the Mozart of history", will show how our environment is affected by the way we think. A five-part television series, based on the book, will be shown on BBC2 in late April. The lecture, chaired by Matthew d'Ancona of *The Times*, will be held at the London School of Economics, Houghton Street, London, WC2, at 7.30pm on April 11. Tickets at £10 (concessions £7.50), which include £5 off the price of the book, are available by ringing 0171-915 6612, by faxing the coupon below to 0171-580 7680, or by sending it with your remittance to Dillons the Bookstore, 82 Gower Street, London, WC1, where tickets can also be purchased.

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The heroine of this novel is indifferent to emancipation, says Rachel Cusk, but her seduction causes her to seek salvation as a writer

## Victorian enlightenment

**ELECTRICITY**  
By Victoria Glendinning  
Hutchinson, £14.99

Electricity, the rising night-sun of science by whose illumination the mystery of darkness would be unveiled, presides with tyrannical force over Victoria Glendinning's second novel. It is an arid, unnatural fire which consumes not fuel but secrets, complexity and shadows, a servant who won't be mastered, a dangerous, democratic light by which "everything is made significant, so nothing is".

Electricity is set in the 1880s, when human progress was high theatre, the property of eccentricity and genius and the food of suspicion and fear. It is a story of 20th-century hearts in Victorian bodies (and bodies, discreetly ripped), whose adventures in the moral and social matrix of the period are related by a backward-looking voice not wholly circumscribed by its language. This voice purports to be that of Charlotte Fisher, our heroine, who describes events in a series of notebooks. In reality it is a more explicit, liberated narrative, one which is of the future and does not waste too much energy pretending that it isn't.

In the absence of full-blooded

pastiche, what the novel instead supplies is a modern experience of century-old repressions, correctly presupposing our interest in a history over which fiction does not draw a veil. Glendinning's is a well-researched tour, a sensory museum in which one can feel the grip and tick of the corset, the humiliations of privy and chamberpot, the greater privations of sex and class. Sweeping aside our knowledge of what was to come, she reinitiates the future's punctured mystery.

Charlotte Fisher's tragedy — and also her redemption — lies close to the bone of this narrative. Her

identity, as a Victorian woman, may be in chains, but her un-instructed passions are free and once exercised give her the illusion of a liberty she does not possess. The visionaries of the women's rights movement, like those of science, appear tiresome to her, always beating at doors in the attempt to break them down: hers is the passive female consciousness which blithely reads a path of self-delight, only to find her way blocked by those same doors, still locked against her.

Her assets, like the best of heroines, are those of youth, beauty and wit; what she seeks to purchase with them, in the old coin of romance, is escape from her straightened circumstances, adventure and happiness. In novels, romance might afford her all these; in this notebook-testimony, however, reality holds the lease on possibility. Those who deal in



Victoria Glendinning: spirited

reality are those to whom the future belongs, such as Charlotte's husband Peter, an ambitious electrical engineer who — alas — cools her ardour with talk of cables, genera-

tors and electrical circuits. It is George Godwin, a country peer and dilettante, who speaks the language of love, taught him by generations of ease and indulgence.

Charlotte encounters Godwin when she and her newly wedded husband are summoned to his country estate, where Peter is to undertake the installation of electricity at the house. The job takes some months and Charlotte, having caught the master's fancy, is plucked from the still-fragile stem of her marriage for his delectation.

The qualities with which he lures her — sophistication, wealth, charm and fancy conversation, none of which her husband possesses — are, of course, the tools of her exploitation, the proof of a lifetime's satisfied appetites whose lazy, random hunger she has momentarily awakened. Even as she dallies in the maw of the ruling classes, however, Charlotte sees no

danger: what in fact endangers her is her femininity, a denotation which robs her of agency or will, whose only power and whose most forceful instinct is to invite and secure ownership.

What Glendinning offers us here is a sensibility which conspires against itself, which is trapped but certainly not blameless — Charlotte turns down the chance of further education and spurs opportunities to support the campaign for women's suffrage — in the matter of its own disenfranchisement. The novel's fascination with this period in social history, and the beginnings of an ineradicable alteration of notions of power over which it presided, is designed to prick the modern conscience.

It inquires of our own courage, not just as readers being seduced, like Charlotte, by the easy romance

of Godwin and resisting, as she does, the harsher prospect of progress and change but also as the heirs and beneficiaries of these struggles against class, gender and ignorance. Charlotte is a girl of intelligence, resourcefulness and spirit: stripped of our advantages, would we have fared any better?

Having survived a series of catastrophes, Charlotte finally makes her escape to the republic of consciousness, writing: it is an appropriate designation, secured with experience and exile, but it is also a casting-off of personal history, a liberation of the female identity. "It has been an emptying-out. I remember less and less... A twig broom is sweeping out the inside of my head with long, slow strokes."

This blankness is of course the twist in Charlotte's tale: her "story" arises because she is a woman, a person to whom things happen, a conductor of activity and energy. It is fitting to this excellent, intelligent novel that its heroine should be denied a resolution: Glendinning leaves her fate in the balance, returning the business of what will happen next to her own hands.

## The babes lost in Hollywood

Almost 60 years ago, Graham Greene wrote a notorious review of a Shirley Temple movie suggesting that she had a paedophilic appeal to screen audiences. The resulting legal action bankrupted the publication, *Night and Day*, in which it appeared. But a couple of years ago, Shirley Temple's memoirs revealed that even the studio executives who had sued on her behalf had constantly attempted to molest her. Arthur Freed (who later produced *Singin' in the Rain*) exposed himself to her in his office: "I thought he was a producer, not an exhibitor."

We can still enjoy the great Hollywood films, but our illusions about the industry and culture that produced them have been totally (and rightly) shattered. It is the depraved world behind the illusion that is the subject of John Gregory Dunne's new novel. Its central figure, the child star Blue Tyler, is an embodiment of Hollywood's dark side, a *Eydie*, to Shirley Temple's *Dr Jekyll*, and born in the same year, 1928. The young Tyler was one of the most famous film stars in the world, but failed to make the transition to mature success and disappeared entirely, rather in the way that Louise Brooks did when her film career stalled.

Jack Broderick, a screenwriter and son of a billionaire, stumbles across the ageing Tyler, now living in a trailer park near Detroit and attempts to find out about her life for a planned feature film, talking to an ex-lover, an ex-director, and interviewing the faded star herself. Tyler was at the nexus of Hollywood corruption, sexually abused as a child by her employer and then herself sexually voracious. She fell in love with the gangster, Jacob King, who was murdered while attempting to develop his own

casino in Las Vegas. As Broderick digs deeper, he finds himself caught in a complicated web comparable to the plots of the baggy Victorian novels to which he ruefully refers.

Much of the action in this 500-page novel is deliberately imprecise and intangible, described at second or third hand, through myth and rumour, self-serving memories or deliberate lies. The intrusions of the media, obsessed with Hollywood sleaze, confuse the issue even more. At the book's hilarious, ghastly climax, the *Oprah Winfrey Show* gets wind of the Tyler story and the hidden scandals of her life and the child star becomes an object of attention, with authentic pundits like Pauline Kael and Norman Podhoretz appearing on television to pronounce on the issue.

The oblique, deliberately teasing method of Dunne's narrative runs obvious risks. His semi-fictionalised gossip has to compete with the "authentic" Hollywood gossip that is now well-known, and some of the ground Dunne covers now seems well-trodden. The links between organised crime and Hollywood, and the early struggles over the Las Vegas casinos, were more powerfully explored 20 years ago in the screen version (not the novel) of *The Godfather*.

But Dunne has an excellent ear for seamy dialogue, a convincing grasp of the institutionalised corruption of the American film industry at the onset of its decline and a craftsman's skill at organising his plot, even in a book that makes full allowance for the influence on our lives of coincidence, chance and sheer bad luck. Rooted in the cinematic culture, and the fascination it holds for us, *Playland* is a better film than any of the actual films (such as *True Confessions*) that Dunne has written.

Sean French

**PLAYLAND**  
By John Gregory Dunne  
Granta, £14.99



Friday afternoon at the Eel and Pie Shop, Wandsworth Bridge Road: from *Eels, Pie and Mash*. Photographs by Chris Clunn, published by the Museum of London (£9.95 pbk) with a foreword by George Melly to coincide with its exhibition, April 4 to July 2

## Victims of good vibes

When Jonathan Fairchild is awoken one night by the sounds of an intruder, his immediate reaction is that his wife, Liz, who has recently left him, must have returned. On investigation, "a huge, blackened claw" pins him to the wall, a gun is pointed to his head and an unknown assailant informs him that he, Jonathan, a name selected from the telephone directory, has been "chosen" to die. So begins Peter Michael Rosenberg's third novel, a dark tale which touches on the latent violence lurking beneath the most civilised of exterior.

It soon becomes clear that this may be more than just a random attack. While his assailant claims to be seeking atonement for injustices perpetrated by an indifferent society, his cryptic asides — "I know the damage you've caused" — indicate he may be avenging a crime perpetrated by Jonathan himself. This blurring of distinction between aggressor and victim is carried through to a highly ambiguous ending. At any rate Jonathan feels guilty about something, the clues to which are contained in the central section of the novel.

Jonathan is a teacher of sociology at a London college. Both plausible

Kate Hubbard

**BECAUSE IT MAKES MY HEART BEAT FASTER**  
By Peter Michael Rosenberg  
Simon & Schuster, £14.99

and progressively unlikeable, he is an unsettling character towards whom Rosenberg skilfully manipulates the reader's sympathies. When we are told that "he could totally beguile an audience with his travel tales, capturing somehow the very essence of Greece with his deeply evocative descriptions", we know he is a man to be avoided. Strangely, Liz, an unsophisticated but independent-minded psychology student, is seduced by such tales. They travel to Greece, where she succumbs to "the island's feel-good vibes", and where Jonathan's simmering resentments surface. They marry in haste and part in circumstances which are only revealed in the final pages and are genuinely shocking.

As romantic histories go this is disappointingly bland, which seems as much due to a failure of language as to imagination. Too frequently the writing descends to cliché. While Rosenberg is good at the workings of terror and guilt, he is altogether less convincing on the subtleties of human relations. Jonathan's ambivalence towards violence is crudely linked to a childhood memory of an unprovoked assault by a fellow pupil, evoking sensations of both horror and a sexually charged excitement.

Unfortunately, Rosenberg's characters do not sustain their psychological underpinning, nor his larger themes: the individual versus society, nature versus nurture. Dashes of psychology or sociology are employed, unnecessarily, to lend intellectual ballast to a compelling but essentially lightweight novel. Still, Rosenberg is an accomplished storyteller and he maintains a brisk pace. It may not make the heart beat faster, but the pages turn enjoyably enough.

## Impresario of modernist classics

Donald Mitchell is best known as the leading authority on the works of Britten and Mahler. This collection of articles, *CRADLES OF THE NEW*, published by Faber to mark Mitchell's 70th birthday, the fruits of a remarkably varied career as publisher, Professor of Music at Sussex University, Chairman of the Performing Right Society, journalist and scholar. It reveals a surprisingly wide and unconventional musical taste, ranging from Debussy and Elgar to Max Reger, Kurt Weill and Malcolm Arnold, as well as a passionate interest in the classical music of Thailand.

As Mitchell says in an interview about *Music Survey*, the polemical journal he edited in his twenties with the late Hans Keller, it is hard now to believe how desperately parochial musical life was in postwar Britain. Before the advent of William Glock, who as Controller of Radio 3 changed musical taste in Brit-

Olivia Kilmartin

**CRADLES OF THE NEW**  
Writings on Music  
1951-1991

By Donald Mitchell  
Faber, £30/£16.99 pbk

ain for ever, Mitchell was a crucial voice "attacking the attackers" of the musical modernists who are now considered to be among the greatest composers of the 20th century.

It was a time when newspapers had firm policies on certain composers. Frank Howes, chief music critic of *The Times* in the 1950s, dismissed Schoenberg as not a composer at all. The old *Grove's Dictionary of Music* derisively short entry on Mahler treated him as a conductor who wrote a few symphonies in his spare time. Indeed, scholars as respected as Eric Blom could tell Mitchell "the fact is we just don't

want Mahler here". Mitchell bravely took up the case of composers like Mahler, Schoenberg and Britten who were ignored or patronised by the musical establishment.

One of the strengths of Mitchell's writing is his essentially musical response to music. As he points out in the first piece collected here, dating from 1955, it was most critics' lack of musicality that prevented them from taking a positive view of contemporary music. He makes a fine distinction between wrong opinions and wrong judgments, the latter being infinitely preferable. Not that Mitchell has been incapable of wrong judgments himself. Reviewing a book by Hindemith, he attacks the composer for the "astonishing blunder" of suggesting that 12-note music had no future. Hindemith has been proved largely right, even if for the wrong reasons.

From these writings, it is clear that Mitchell responds instinctively to British com-

posers whose works show an awareness of music beyond these shores. He is uneasy with Vaughan Williams, for instance, who he thinks is limited by his Englishness. His essays on Elgar are particularly fine: this composer, in one sense English to the core, is placed firmly in a European tradition.

But the musical figure with whom Mitchell is most asso-

ciated is Benjamin Britten. They struck up a friendship after Mitchell had championed the composer's music in the 1950s (his celebrated article attacking the critics of *Billy Budd* is republished here). It was as the publisher of Britten that Mitchell established a music department at Faber (the prewar publisher of Mitchell friends Auden and Isherwood), and it was under Britten's guidance that Faber Music was able to become one of the most important sponsors of new talent.

Mitchell's most notable contribution to music scholarship is his standard work on the music of Mahler: the first two volumes (out of three so far) have just been reissued by Faber in paperback at £20 each. But these short essays perhaps speak more directly to the reader — what the late Christopher Palmer in his excellent introduction calls "the kindling quality" of his writing. Above all, he stimulates the reader into listening to the music again.



Mitchell: rare musicality

## Fly Dutchmen

James Woodall

**THE GREAT LONGING**  
By Marcel Möring  
Flamingo, £5.99  
paperback original

In his native Holland Marcel Möring's *The Great Longing* has been called a masterpiece. Poetically slim, modern in tone, the novel deals with timeless things: sex and love, destiny, memory. Two brothers and a sister try to work out their lives against an immediate background of unemployment, and against a more thematic one of emotional dispossession. Their parents were killed in a car crash and after years of foster homes, the siblings meet.

The narrator is Sam, twin brother of Lisa, who knocks around with his wild elder brother Raph after being told he no longer needs a guardian. The two boys hit the road for a year, pick up casual labour and get into all manner of scrapes.

Sam, the most sympathetic of the three, feels deep affection for Lisa, a painter and not obviously lovable. Her marriage having come apart, she seeks comfort and a home with her twin. She fades in and out of Sam's life, some-

times blurred, sometimes in sharp focus. No one is happy, no one is still. This is a novel about indifference. It lacks the forced excitement of Jack Kerouac's *On the Road*, with which it could be compared for its evocation of youthful quest. *The Great Longing* is a post-adolescent novel, about adults trying to understand how, without love, they have nevertheless become adults.

In Holland, *The Great Longing* has touched a nerve manifestly raw in many contemporary North European cultures: the necessity of travelling enormous emotional distances to reach even members of your own family. The fact that Möring can make so bleak a condition so compelling guarantees a long life in English translation.

"This is a book which is so well written that you won't be disappointed whatever you are looking for"

LITERARY REVIEW

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DAILY TELEGRAPH















THE TIMES THURSDAY APRIL 6 1995

# McCall welcomes former world champion back to heavyweight scene

## Tyson sets sights on making early return to the ring

FROM SRIKUMAR SEN, BOXING CORRESPONDENT, IN LAS VEGAS

MIKE TYSON appears to be throwing off any institutionalising effects of prison, where he spent three years for rape, faster than was thought possible. He not only plans to be back in the ring by June or July, but is beginning to live in the style he was accustomed to before going to prison. Tyson, who is staying in Don King's house here, went on his first spending spree last Friday, just six days after being released from prison.

If those around Tyson refuse to say anything about how the former champion is getting on for fear of speaking out of turn (Tyson himself has spoken in public for only 76 seconds in Cleveland), Oliver McCall, who is defending his World Boxing Council title against Larry Holmes here on Saturday, has no such qualms.

He told how he had accompanied Tyson on a shopping expedition in the Caesars Palace indoor arcade and talked boxing all the while. Tyson bought several designer suits, ties and belts. "We shopped at Versace," McCall said. "He bought a lot of clothes and when he started going to other shops, I left."

McCall's manager, Jimmy Adams, added: "He bought several suits. Don King paid. I don't know how much he spent, but it must have been well into five figures."

McCall, who used to be Tyson's sparring partner, agreed that Tyson appeared to have shrunk in size, but said he would have no trouble getting back in the ring by July. "He looked a little small

er, but he still has that physique of a heavyweight. He looked 215lb.

"Personally, he looked calmer, focused and humble. He has been in prison for three years and you can't help but be humble for a while. He seemed very mentally stable."

"He said he wants to fight June or July. I don't think he'll have any trouble fighting. He is already in training."

"We talked about boxing, about different guys and we talked about Riddick Bowe

and how he had looked in his last performance against Herbie Hide. We both came up with the same conclusion. He's a big, tall, big, fat blubby bum now. Of all the guys in the heavyweight division, even including Lennox Lewis, Riddick Bowe looks the worst."

"He's declined, as far as his skills go, more than anyone in the top ten of the division. Looking at Riddick Bowe, we thought George Foreman must be licking his chops."

McCall said he had been sacked as a sparring partner by Tyson when training in Las Vegas before the bout with James "Buster" Douglas in Japan because he refused to spar more than four rounds at a session after having his weekly wages cut from \$2,500 (about £1,560) to \$1,500.

"I told him then that if he took Buster Douglas lightly, he would be in for a surprise. When I saw him the other day, I reminded him about it. He shut up and sized me up. I told him: 'I am the same guy who was whipping you up in the gym. No need to size me up. You got plenty of time before we meet. Just get ready.'"

"He said, 'Make sure you beat Larry Holmes, because you've got plenty of money to make.'"

McCall has certainly kept himself in good shape since beating Lewis in two rounds last September. He looked slightly sluggish sparring eight rounds on Tuesday, but admitted that was the case. He said there was no danger of him underestimating Holmes, who is 45.

"I've trained for the Holmes of 1978. If he don't step in there like he was in 1978, I'm going to whup him."

McCall said he was so confident that he would be prepared to go back in time and fight any of the champions of Holmes's era. "That's why I love Mike Tyson," McCall said, "because he can't help but motivate me to keep winning. That's the spark Tyson brings to the division."

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Tyson hopes to be in prime condition by the time he steps back into the ring

## Officials keep special weight watch on Schumacher

FROM OLIVER HOLY IN BUENOS AIRES

MICHAEL SCHUMACHER was warned last night that the discrepancy between his weight before and after the Brazilian Grand Prix last month would lead to him being placed under special scrutiny for the rest of the season. Weight watchers everywhere will be hoping their new champion confounds the doubters. The German tipped the scales at 77kg (12st 11lb) when each driver was

weighed, officially before the São Paulo race, but in an unscheduled check after he had taken the chequered flag, his weight had increased by more than 5kg (11lb). Because the required minimum weight of car and driver were expected to be taken from his first measurement, that would have given him the potential to run with a lighter car and so gain an advantage. Schumacher refused to comment on the controversy here yesterday as the drivers prepared to take part in

the first Argentinian Grand Prix for 14 years and the official line from the team was that the car had conformed to the rules after the Brazilian race. But the clear message coming from official sources was that the authorities were deeply disillusioned with the world champion's behaviour.

It was made clear that Schumacher would be checked rigorously throughout the weekend and that he would be weighed after the race on Sunday here. It was felt there was no need to censure him after Brazil

because he had caused himself enough embarrassment.

The International Motor Sport Federation (FIA) said the weight of other drivers would also be checked at random after the race on high-tech computerised scales brought in to crack down on attempts to bend the rules. Until now, the official weight

stood at the start of the season has given for the remainder of the year, but rules such as drinking several litres of water before being weighed have forced the change.

David Coulthard was also counting the cost of shedding some pounds yesterday. He was concerned about the prize-money, thought to be £100,000, he lost when he was disqualified from second place in Brazil because of apparent irregularities in the Elf fuel in his Williams-Renault car.

Coulthard said he was confident the appeal against the ruling, which also deprived Schumacher of first place, would be successful when it is heard in Paris next week.

## Wisden backs Test format for new world championship

Alan Lee offers his support for a tournament to establish the strongest side in five-day cricket

Early next year, cricket stages its sixth World Cup, but, as usual, it will be a phoney and unfulfilling measure of nations because the games are of one day's duration rather than five. It is time for a more significant event and the 1995 *Wisden Cricketers' Almanack*, published today, proposes the immediate institution of a world championship of Test cricket.

Within a volume that is also intensely critical of England's players and management, attacks the shortsightedness of the counties and suggests the Ashes should no longer be held at Lord's irrespective of who wins them, this is perhaps not the most instantly arresting item, but it could be the most momentous.

Test cricket is undergoing a renaissance. In England, it has never been less than healthy, but overseas, especially in India and Australia, the obsession with limited-overs events is waning, restoring public support to the five-day game. Within an ever-expanding international programme, however, rationalisation is urgently needed.

Wisden may have the solution. In his editor's notes, Matthew Engel points out that a "Test championship" would cost next to nothing, could bring in major sponsorship and would give shape to the present mish-mash of world cricket". Explaining his theory, he goes on: "All the Test countries need to do is undertake to play at least one Test home and away against all the others in a four-year cycle, which they are edging toward anyway."

"In an Ashes series, the world championship would merely be a sub-plot and the whole series could count in the final table: two points, say, for the winner; one each if it were drawn. For countries which just played a single Test against each other, then the one game would count for everything. It would thus add particular pith to the matches that now seem least important."

Engel's idea is simple yet original. It could raise the profile of cricket at a stroke, just as Engel, remarkably, has raised the standards and broadened the scope of the great book. This is his third edition as editor and it has much to commend it.

There is a timely piece by Derek Pringle on how cricketers have never been above bending the laws: a tribute to the late Peter May by Doug Insole and valedictory articles on Allan Border and Kapil Dev. In addition to the traditional cricketers of the year — Devon Malcolm, Tim Munton, Steve Rhodes, Kepler Wessels and, inevitably, Brian Lara — there is also a novel alternative five, honouring some of the backroom stalwarts of the county game.

Most attention, however, will be focused on the editor's notes, in which Engel suggests that Raymond Illingworth must take overall charge of the Test team. As the notes were written in January, six weeks before this came about, he demonstrates considerable prescience. He is not, however, totally enamoured of Illingworth's performance as chairman of selectors and writes: "One began to feel that the right adjective was the one that never attached to him in his playing days: amateurish."

Wisden rejects the notion of a two-division county championship but concedes: "The counties have got to start doing some hard thinking, especially about the amount of one-day cricket they play." The return to group games in the Benson and Hedges Cup is condemned. "In the face of all the evidence of the damage to the form of the game is doing to English players' technique, this is grotesque and disgraceful." Hear, hear.

□ *Wisden Cricketers' Almanack 1995* (John Wisden, £23.50 hardback and soft covers).

## SPORTS LETTERS

### Cantona provocation ignored

From Mr John Byrne  
Sir, We finally have a judgment on Eric Cantona (report, April 1). At best it is a compromise, at worst an appeasement to the lynch-mob mentality — or should that be the other way round?

Do we learn from this that it is best to avoid all kinds of confrontation and that football and many other kinds of competition may be a form of embryonic violence?

Impartial justice would appear almost impossible to receive or administer. It seems that the initial sentence of two weeks' imprisonment was imposed by the magistrate because the accused was a highly paid and well-known person and because this was an emotive issue.

Surely, for this very reason, the magistrate and so-called dispenser of justice should not have fallen into this trap based on the misplaced self-righteous public outrage.

Yours sincerely,  
JOHN BYRNE,  
34 Castlebar Park, WS.

### The English way

From Mr D.J. Bartholomew  
Sir, I am weary of hearing that every foreign football team displays superior technical ability to England, as in David Miller's article on Uruguay (March 30).

Nobody in the world has better ball-control than John Barnes or Peter Beardsley. Their problem is that they rarely do it for England.

There is no skill gap. English players have to use their skills at the hectic pace of our leagues. I wonder how many foreign players would display marvellous ball-control if playing at the same speed.

Very few I would guess, apart from truly great players such as Klinsmann, Cantona and Gullit.

If ever England play to English strengths, wouldn't

they sweep all before them? After all, Ireland play the English way and, with limited talent, have achieved more than England in recent years.

Let England give it a try. They have tried matching the foreigners at their own game for 25 years and where has it got them? Twentieth in the world rankings.

Yours faithfully,  
D.J. BARTHOLOMEW,  
5 Princess Gardens,  
Hilberton Marsh,  
Trowbridge,  
Wiltshire.

### Seeing red over England shirt

From Mr Ben Thompson  
Sir, On viewing the new England rugby union World Cup strip (report, March 28) I could not believe the decision of the Rugby Football Union (RFU) to allow greed once again to get in the way of tradition and good taste.

The strip, as was the case in 1991, is not only an insult to the past but a totally incomprehensible creation. Is someone getting England confused with Britain? The colours of the St George Cross are red and white, so why the introduction of navy blue in the national strip?

The concept behind the strips of the home unions is that they represent the pride and passion of their respective nations.

I cannot imagine a country like New Zealand being so

flexible if, in a similar predicament, it came to turning its back on years of tradition for the sake of donning what is no more than a multi-coloured leisure shirt.

It appears that the English authorities have been too keen to relax their traditional ties to trigger the cash registers. We are in danger of experiencing from the RFU the same sort of exploitation witnessed in the many association football clubs with shops in this country with their continual change of the team's playing attire.

I hope the responsible parties will soon wake up and the days of the dashing "All Whites" will be restored.

Yours sincerely,  
BEN THOMPSON,  
5 St Andrew's Mansions,  
St Andrew's Road, W14.

### One degree over

From Mrs Rosemary Stephens  
Sir, Once again we have seen an exhibition of the Thames oarsmanship on the Thames (report, April 3), but was it really a race between the universities of Oxford and Cambridge?

Oxford had seven men who had been to at least one overseas university and Cambridge had three. Admittedly, they were all now attached to Oxbridge colleges and were supposedly engaged in research, but one cannot help wondering whether their skills as oarsmen did not carry more weight than their academic ability.

Is it right that university resources should be given to these men when so many excellent candidates fail to obtain a place to read for a first degree?

Yours faithfully,  
ROSEMARY STEPHENS,  
The Glade House,  
Quality Street,  
Merstham,  
Surrey.

## SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT  
The refresher today is about management of entries. To see entries properly, you have to anticipate the sequence of play.

Dealer North Love all

♠ Q AKQ32  
♥ 8854  
♦ AQ4  
♣ 10853

♠ 64  
♥ 98  
♦ AQJ  
♣ J109732

♠ AKJ972  
♥ 64  
♦ K103  
♣ K5

Contract: Six Spades by South. Lead: Jack of clubs

Six spades is a good contract. How do you set about it on a club lead? The first thing is to count your tricks. In this case, you have a probable six tricks in spades, three in hearts and three in clubs, making 12 in all. It seems simple, but what happens in practice, I am afraid, is that South wins the first trick with the king of clubs, and then scratches his head. Too late, the contract can no longer be made.

Correct, of course, is to win the first club in dummy. This looks unnatural, because it blocks the suit; but sometimes you have to incur a blockage to make the rest of the hand flow freely. Here, you continue by cashing the queen of spades; then, you come to hand with the king of clubs, draw trumps and claim 12 tricks. Straightforward enough, but you had to make a plan before playing from dummy at trick one.

Here is a slightly more difficult communication problem. As West, you play GNT and North leads the nine of hearts.

♠ QJ1078  
♥ Q107  
♦ 873  
♣ 52

♠ AK  
♥ AJ6  
♦ AK64  
♣ AKQ3

It is all too easy to play low on the heart, but now the defence will be able to deny West entry to his hand — South will not put in the king of hearts if he has it. Correct is to rise with the ace of hearts and unblock the ace and king of spades. Then you continue with the jack of hearts and play the queen on it — now you have forced an entry to your hand.

By Philip Howard

HEORTOLOGY  
a. Gardening  
b. Black-or-white antithesis  
c. The study of feasts

DODID  
a. A tick  
b. An Aztec temple  
c. An iodine derivative

LOPOLITH  
a. A gall-stone  
b. The rock-creep  
c. A stone basin

MIZRACH  
a. Eastward-facing  
b. A love token  
c. A rock coney

Answers: page 42

## KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE  
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

### Speelman top

Grandmaster Jon Speelman, from London, has ousted Nigel Short as Britain's top-ranked player in the Intel world chess rankings that were issued yesterday.

Speelman, the world No 20, has achieved a new rating of 2,627, ahead of Short 2,617, John Nunn 2,600 and Michael Adams 2,601.

The world's highest ranked player, according to Intel, is Garry Kasparov with 2,789, ahead of Anatoly Karpov 2,767, Vassily Ivanchuk 2,764, Viswanathan Anand 2,758 and Gata Kamsky 2,755. Bobby Fischer, the former world champion is ranked 54th on 2,594.

### London tournament

The following game was played in the St Peter's de Beauvoir international tournament, now in progress in London.

Neil McDonald, the winner, has been the dominant force so far in the numerous international tournaments in the London series organised by the energetic Chris Dunworth.

White: Tyrannis  
Black: McDonald  
St Peter's, 1995

1 d4 d5  
2 c4 c6  
3 Nf3 Nf6  
4 g4 cxd5  
5 Nc3 Nc6

Slav Defence

By Raymond Keene

This position is a variation from the game Burgess Whitcut, Torbay 1989. The black king has been driven into the open. How does White now land the decisive blow?

Solution: page 42

6	B4	Nc4
7	a3	Nc3
8	bxc3	g6
9	Nc6	Bg7
10	Nc6	bxc6
11	Oa4	Bd7
12	Ba6	Oc6
13	O-O	Bf5
14	-Rfc1	O-O
15	g4	Bc4
16	h3	e5
17	h4	exd4
18	Rb1	Oc7
19	Bb7	bxc3
20	e5	Oc7
21	h3	Rac8
22	Bxc6	Oe7
23	Oc2	f6
24	O4	hxg5
25	Bxc5+	Kf6
26	Oe4	Qh4
27	de5	Qh5
28	Rc2	Rf2
29	Rd2	exd2+
30	Kx2	Qh2+
31	Og2	Rf8+
32	Ke2	Oxe5+
33	Oe4	Qc2+
34	Rf1	Qc2+
35	Og2	Oc5+
36	Kc2	Oc5+
37	Ke2	Rf8+
38	Oc4	Rf8
39	Rc1	

White: Kc1











## Series of European triumphs at Augusta hurts home pride

## Americans grow tired of foreign masters



David Miller views the gathering clamour in Georgia for a home champion to reclaim the Masters

It hurts. The home failure to win any but one of the past seven Masters tournaments — Fred Couples in 1993 — irks chauvinists among the American public and press. For heaven's sake, this is their Oscar for the best foreigner. Lyle, Faldo (twice), Woosnam, Langer and Olazabal — have so brazenly stolen in sequence.

Some indication of the gentle resentment is evident when the leading article in a special-interest magazine this week begins: "Come off it, you smug pundits of the international press, your time is up. Who won the last Ryder Cup, President's Cup and World Cup? Our bedraggled US professionals, that's who. At the Masters, it will happen again!"

Will it? The harsh truth is that, for the first time, Americans failed to win one of the majors last year, the present titles being held by José María Olazabal (Masters), Ernie Els (US Open) and Nick Price (Open Championship and US PGA). Of the dozen or so favourites this week, six are European or South African and that excludes the holder, the equable, smiling Olazabal, who last year finally threw off the ten-year shadow of his senior Spanish partner, Severiano Ballesteros, is both by the aftermath of a toe operation and has missed the cut twice recently.

No wonder there was such a warm reception late on Tuesday evening when Arnold Palmer, who won the Masters four times between 1958 and

1964 and created the mass perception of the game in the United States, received a memorial plaque. A few of the old cries of "go for it, Arnie", could be heard. There was an American-style winner.

Yet among contemporary American players, there is a realism regarding overseas rivalry. While the US PGA Tour has, over the years, resisted the expansion of foreign participation, voiced by Dean Beman — the closed-shop union policy protecting "their" prize-money — the better players welcome the technical breadths introduced by the foreigners. Peter Jacobsen and Davis Love III, both fancied to halt the burglary this week, welcome the challenge.

"You have to respect them [in any field, whether it's golf, baseball or tennis] business," Love, an eleven-hour qualifier with his victory in New Orleans on Sunday, said yesterday. "I love having them here. They add a lot to our tour."

Jacobson, whose maturity and humour set him apart from so many introspective prominent sportsmen, is equally enthusiastic: "Americans are excited by the foreigners," he said. "The reason the Europeans win is that you have to be creative at Augusta. We don't have other creative courses. This is the most celebrated of the four majors. You cannot attack the course. Faldo has said that to get the line wrong from the tee is to add two or three clubs to your second shot. Of the dozen



Jacobson, a favourite to repel the overseas challenge, practises at Augusta

treachery of its design, which presents a rink-like pace unequalled by any but the driest links course.

Augusta has a mere 45 bunkers, compared to, say, the 117 of St Andrews, but Jacobsen thinks the minor alteration this year to the 4th green has made it "absolutely terrifying".

So fast are the greens and so subtle the rough-free fairways that every prominent player starts equal. Experience is everything; patience the key. You cannot attack the course. Faldo has said that to get the line wrong from the tee is to add two or three clubs to your second shot. Of the dozen

favourites, only Love, 30, and Els, 25, are under 35.

Jacobson, who has never won a major, has the mentality to ride the imponderables. Both he and Love deny that hating to lose is a necessary ingredient that they lack. "I want to win as badly as the next guy," Jacobson said, "but I want people to know I'm having fun. If I hated to lose, it might turn me into a kind of person I don't want to be."

Love, whose memorable putting against Rocco at the Belfry in 1993 helped the Americans to retain the Ryder Cup, acknowledges his own fluctuation. "You saw last week why I can win a major

and why I can't," he reflected. "It's hard for me to be aggressive. I'm more focused when I'm behind."

As a smug pundit who has been privileged and thrilled to witness the foreign invasion here, I shall be delighted if Jacobson or Love, the personification of sportsmanship — or Pavin, Couples or Lehman — can give the crowd a home victory in a Ryder Cup year.

That once moribund event, has latterly given a new edge to strokeplay tournaments. "We talk a lot more about winning goals," Love admitted. "The grip of the Masters has never been more intent or more open."

## Secret deal causes outrage in America's Cup trials

FROM BARRY PICKTHALL IN SAN DIEGO

THE deal that allowed all three of the United States' America's Cup defender boats to proceed to the final trials — invalidating the much-heralded race-off for a final spot between Dennis Conner's *Stars & Stripes* and Bill Koch's *Mighty Mary* — was signed in secret two hours before the boats began the showdown race, it was revealed yesterday.

The decision agreed between syndicate heads, Koch, Conner and John Marshall, who leads the all-conquering *Young America* team, and sanctioned by the San Diego Yacht Club, was even concealed from Leslie Egnot and her all-woman crew on *Mighty Mary*. She did not know until after she had pointlessly defeated Conner's *Stars & Stripes* by 5min 59sec.

"We went in thinking it was do-or-die," Egnot said. "When we finished, I have never seen such happy people. We excelled. It was a real disappointment when we heard..."

If the hugs and kisses aboard *Mighty Mary* turned to disbelief, it was nothing to the sense of outrage within the American press, however, who yesterday accused the San Diego Yacht Club of "hoodwinking" the world.

"Has the World Yachting Federation taken over this event? This is a fix," Angus Phillips, of the *Washington Post*, commented.

"I'm lost for words — I would rather watch replacement baseball than this," Dave Nickolicker, the veteran yachting writer from the *New York Times*, said.

The San Diego Yacht Club insisted it had made the decision in the interests of "fair sailing". Wyke Cable, the chairman of the defence committee, said: "This is a good plan that enables all of us to put this recent rules controversy [surrounding the change of keel on Dennis Conner's yacht] behind us and get on with providing the best possible defence of the America's Cup."

The 140-year history of the America's Cup is steeped in plays on the part of the American defenders to keep hold of the trophy they first won in the Solent off Cowes, but this late change of rules beats them all. Not only has it made a mockery of the three-month Citizen Cup defence trials so far, but it strikes at the integrity of the cup.

Ernie Taylor, who heads the challengers' committee, was outraged: "Nothing the San Diego YC does surprises me, but a lot of it amazes me. They have a totally different sense of sport to the rest of the world."

Even Larry Granstein, the title sponsor to the defence trials, was at a loss. "This is the nuttiest thing I have ever heard," he said.

Behind the decision that gives *Young America* a two-point lead, *Mighty Mary* one point and has *Stars & Stripes* starting with a zero score, lies a need to appease sponsors of both Conner and Koch's teams with television exposure.

## Not correct, politically

The Art of the Political Insult. World Service, 5.15pm.

"This is going to be a battle of wits," one MP warned another. "How brave of you to fight without weapons," came the reply. This is one of the more civilised of the examples of vituperation quoted by Michael Diamond in his anthology of invective. At the other end of the scale, the Rev Ian Paisley's attack on Mrs Thatcher — "a wicked, treacherous, lying woman" on whose head he called down God's vengeance. Harold Wilson, sketched Harold Macmillan with a single thrust when he said he had been very expensively educated at Eton — and Suez. Far less subtle were the insults hurled at his opponents by Paul Keating, the Australian Prime Minister.

Globe Theatre: *Charley Tango*. Radio 4, 2.00pm.

David Lutz's play is the second to have been commissioned in a special season shared by Radio 4 and BBC World Service. It is a powerful stuff, in its writing, performances and, most definitely, in Jeremy Mortimer's direction. It fits to send from between two wars. One, a civil war, is being fought somewhere in southwest Africa. The other is a family conflict, fought on an English lawn. An African leader synthesises the play's message: "Wars are fought by grow-up, but it's always the kids who suffer." Both wars have a victim in common — the young son (David Amrohn), whose warring parents (David Calder, Rowena Cooper) made him a casualty as they were trying to ease the suffering of others. Peter Dinklage.

## RADIO 1

FM Stereo, 4.00pm Bruno Brookes 6.30 Steve Wright 9.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Lisa Farnon 2.00 Nicky Campbell 4.00 Mark Goodier, including at 11.45 The Newsbeat 7.00 Evening Session 9.00 Soundbite 10.00 Mark Radcliffe 12.00 4.00am Claire Sutcliffe

## RADIO 2

FM Stereo, 6.00am Martin Kelner 6.15 Pause for Thought 7.30 Wake to Wogan 8.15 Pause for Thought 8.30 Ken Bruce 11.30 Jimmy Young 2.00pm Fiona Armstrong 3.30 Ed Stewart 4.00 John Dunn 7.00 How Pleasant to Know 8.15 7.30 David Allen launches Radio 2's Country Season 9.00 Paul Jones 9.45 The Gospel Train 10.30 The Harrogate 12.00am Steve Macdonald 3.00 Alex Lester

## RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports 6.00 The Breakfast Programme, including at 6.55 and 7.25 The Radio 5 News 8.25 The Magazine, including at 8.40 The 5 News 10.35 Euronews 11.00 GQ Reaction 12.00 Midday with the 5 News 1.30pm Newsnight 2.05pm The 5 News 3.00pm The 5 News 4.00pm The 5 News 5.00pm The 5 News 6.00pm The 5 News 7.00pm The 5 News 8.00pm The 5 News 9.00pm The 5 News 10.00pm The 5 News 11.00pm The 5 News 12.00am The 5 News

## TALK RADIO

6.00am Samantha Marsh, Sean Bolger 10.00 Scott Chisholm 1.00pm Anna Rastburn 2.00pm Tommy Boyd 7.00pm Martin O'Connell 10.00pm Claire 1.00am Al Kelly

## RADIO 3

6.30am Open University: Is There a Text in This Programme? 7.00am The 3 News 8.00am The 3 News 9.00am The 3 News 10.00am The 3 News 11.00am The 3 News 12.00am The 3 News 1.00pm The 3 News 2.00pm The 3 News 3.00pm The 3 News 4.00pm The 3 News 5.00pm The 3 News 6.00pm The 3 News 7.00pm The 3 News 8.00pm The 3 News 9.00pm The 3 News 10.00pm The 3 News 11.00pm The 3 News 12.00am The 3 News

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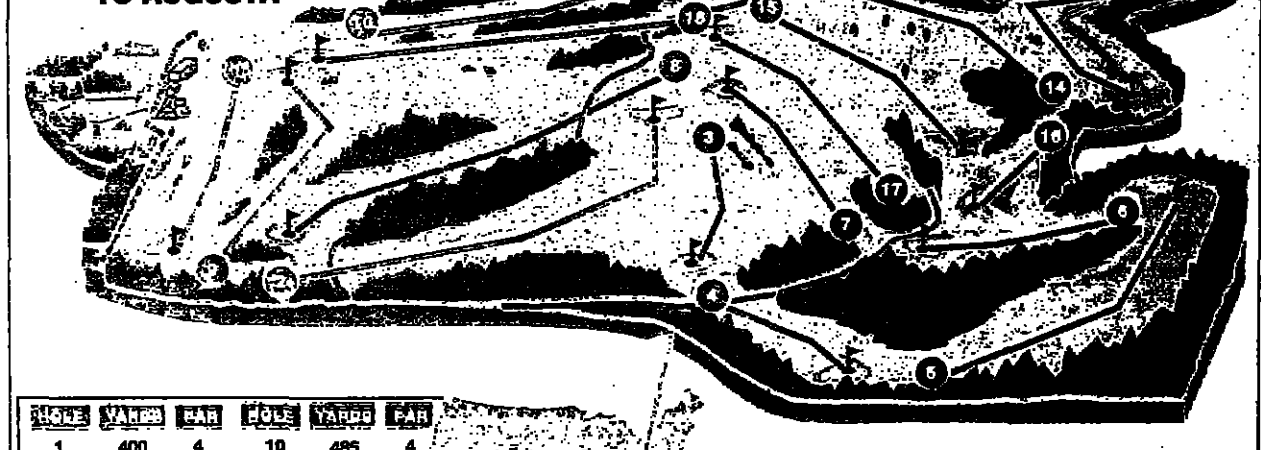
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## HOLE-BY-HOLE GUIDE TO AUGUSTA



HOLES	WIND	RAIN	WIND	RAIN
1	400	4	10	485
2	555	5	11	485
3	360	3	12	155
4	205	3	13	485
5	435	4	14	405
6	190	3	15	500
7	360	4	16	170
8	535	5	17	400
9	435	4	18	405
OUT	3,465	36	IN	3,460
			TOTAL	6,925

MASTERS RECORDS  
Most victories: 8 Jack Nicklaus, 4 Arnold Palmer.  
Oldest winner: 46 Jack Nicklaus (1986).  
Youngest winner: 22 Severiano Ballesteros (1980).  
Lowest round: 53, Nick Price (1986).  
Lowest outward half: 30, Johnny Miller (1979), Greg Norman (1986).  
Lowest inward half: 20, Mark Calcavecchia (1982).  
Lowest total: 271, Jack Nicklaus (1965); Ray Floyd (1976).  
Biggest winning margin: 9 shots, Jack Nicklaus (1965).  
Successful defences: 1965-66, Jack Nicklaus; 1969-70, Nick Faldo.

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## FIXTURES

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated

European Cup Winners' Cup  
Semi-finals, first leg  
Arsenal v Sampdoria (8.15)  
Real Zaragoza v Chelsea (8.15)

DIADORA LEAGUE: Premier division: Huddersfield v Scunthorpe, First division: Huddersfield v Scunthorpe, Third division: Huddersfield v Scunthorpe, Fourth division: Huddersfield v Scunthorpe.

BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE: Southern division: Fisher 30 v Watlington, Southern division: Fisher 30 v Watlington, Southern division: Fisher 30 v Watlington.

MINERVA SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE: Premier division: Langford v Wellingborough, Premier division: Langford v Wellingborough, Premier division: Langford v Wellingborough.

SKOL MIDLANDS COMBINATION: Premier division: Shireley v Alford, Premier division: Shireley v Alford, Premier division: Shireley v Alford.

INTERLINK EXPRESS MIDLAND ALLIANCE: West Midlands Police v Solihull Swifts, West Midlands Police v Solihull Swifts, West Midlands Police v Solihull Swifts.

PONTINS CENTRAL LEAGUE: First division (7.0) Upton's started: Blackburn v Leeds (10.15) Upton's started: Blackburn v Leeds (10.15) Upton's started: Blackburn v Leeds (10.15).

OTHER SPORT  
BOWLS: Churchill Insurance women's world indoor championship (Dumfries); Manchester Utd national indoor championships (Milton Keynes).  
SNOKER: British Open (Plymouth).

## ANSWERS FROM PAGE 39

## HERETOLOGY

(a) The science or study of the origin, meaning, growth, and history of the religious feasts and seasons of the Christian year, from the Greek *heros* + *logos* study. "Recalling how the recent heretologists Dr Kellner considers that the mission of the feast in the Irish calendar does not prove the celebration of the feast."

(b) A tick of the family Ixodidae, the modern Latin family from the generic *Ixodes*, from the Greek *ixodes* tick. "The Ixodidae possess a soft-skinned opisthosoma capable of great distension necessary for the alternate gorging and fasting that is inseparable from the life of a tick."

LOPOLITH  
(a) A large intrusive mass similar to a laccolith but having the base centrally sunken, geological jargon. "Professor John Barrell has suggested that as igneous forms they deserve a distinct name. The name proposed by the writer is lopolith (from [Greek] *lopos*, a basin, a flat carthen dish, and *lithos*, a stone)."

MIZRACH  
(a) The east, the direction of Jerusalem, a sacred picture facing east, the Jewish practice of turning towards Jerusalem in prayer, from the Hebrew *mizrah* east + *zarah* to rise. James Joyce, *Ulysses* 1922: "His gaze turned in the direction of Mizrah, the east."

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THE TIMES THURSDAY APRIL 6 1995

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body with the return of The Great Outdoors, a sort of grown-up version of *Blue Peter*. It's the type of programme you find yourself watching wearing a fleecy or practising your bowlines.

Last night's opening instalment kicked off with a Noakesian cocktail of gliding and rock-climbing and a walk around Arthur Ransome's Lake District that was actually more Valerie Singleton. The programme rattled along with some useful facts, so much so that it can do little more than whet the appetite for fresh air. But it does provide back-up information for those for whom the idea of a quiet weekend in has somehow lost its appeal. Ah yes, that heady mix of getting cold, wet and miserable and missing The New Adventure of Superfudge in one go, for which you have to take my outdoor pleasures viciously – so I'll be tuning in each week. Wearing my fleecy, of course.

## CHANNEL 4

- 6.35 **Split and Hercules.** Cat and dog cartoon series (7652235)
- 7.00 **The Big Breakfast** (582235)
- 9.00 **Spacebots.** Animated adventures (t) (838956)
- 9.30 **California Dreams.** A return of the series about an Asian high school rock band (6592709)
- 9.55 **GamesMaster.** Computer games magazine (8200728) 10.25 **Batman.** The Gotham City hero tackles the evil Riddler (3898970) 10.55 **TinTin.** Animated adventures of Ferg's hero (t) (5444119)
- 11.20 **Pugwiff's Summer** (t) (5184254) 11.50 **Terrymen.** Classic cartoons (8822167)
- 12.00 **House To House.** Maya Even with another edition of the political magazine (830302)
- 12.30 **Sesame Street.** Pre-school learning series (49683)
- 1.30 **The Wonderful Wizard of Oz** (t) (s) (65754631)
- 1.55 **FILM: State Fair** (1945) starring Jeanne Crain, David Huxford, and George E. Stone. A lively musical about a family visiting the Iowa State Fair. Directed by Walter Lang (7834558)
- 2.35 **Pete Smith Spacy.** A 1949 short about an angler (2040761)
- 4.00 **The Great Outdoors** (t). (Teletext) (s) (254)
- 4.30 **Fifteen To One.** (Teletext) (s) (438)
- 5.00 **Rick Lake.** A discussion on whether teenagers should divorce their parents. (Teletext) (s) (5894047)
- 5.55 **Voyage To NeXT.** Mother Earth and Father Time analyse mankind. With the voices of Maureen Staddon and Dick Gillespie (555235)
- 6.00 **The Cosby Show.** American domestic comedy (t) (Teletext) (631)
- 6.30 **Saved By The Bell: The College Years.** Campus comedy. (Teletext) (953)
- 7.00 **Channel 4 News** (Teletext) and weather (4259902)
- 7.30 **The Slot.** Viewers' video soapbox (477070)
- 8.00 **Crash Course.** A look at the progress of three people on an intensive driving course (t). (Teletext) (s) (5894047)

**8.30**  **Food File.** (Teletext) (s) (P631)

**9.00**  **Naked News: Talk Radio.** (Teletext) (8377)

**10.10** **FILM: When You Remember Me** (1990) starring Fred Savage. A made-for-television drama about a young muscular dystrophy sufferer who goes to court to protect his civil rights as a patient. Directed by Henry Winkler. (Teletext) (s) (502252)

**11.55** **The Kids in the Hall.** (Teletext) (s) (175058) for Canadians

**12.25pm** **Dispatches (r).** (Teletext) (332842)

**1.10** **Shenika.** The story of an Egyptian anthropologist who discovers a nomadic tribe on the verge of extinction (r) (4646282)

**2.10** **FILM: Naughty But Nice** (1939, b/w). A musical starring Dick Powell as a music professor looking for a publisher for his symphony. With Ann Sheridan, Gale Page and Ronald Reagan. Directed by Ray Enright (833945). Ends at 3.50

## SATELLITE

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